

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

TUI T. SUTHERLAND

ART BY JAKE PARKER

WINGS OF FIRE

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL



LEGENDS
DARKSTALKER

 SCHOLASTIC

DISCOVER
THE WORLD OF
WINGS OF FIRE

BOOK ONE
THE DRAGONET PROPHECY

BOOK THREE
THE HIDDEN KINGDOM

BOOK FIVE
THE BRIGHTEST NIGHT

BOOK SEVEN
WINTER TURNING

BOOK NINE
TALONS OF POWER

BOOK ELEVEN
THE LOST CONTINENT

BOOK THIRTEEN
THE POISON JUNGLE

BOOK TWO
THE LOST HEIR

BOOK FOUR
THE DARK SECRET

BOOK SIX
MOON RISING

BOOK EIGHT
ESCAPING PERIL

BOOK TEN
DARKNESS OF DRAGONS

BOOK TWELVE
THE HIVE QUEEN

BOOK FOURTEEN
THE DANGEROUS GIFT

BOOK FIFTEEN
THE FLAMES OF HOPE

LEGENDS
DARKSTALKER
DRAGONSLAYER

—————▶ GRAPHIC NOVELS ◀—————

BOOK ONE
THE DRAGONET PROPHECY

BOOK THREE
THE HIDDEN KINGDOM

BOOK FIVE
THE BRIGHTEST NIGHT

BOOK SEVEN
WINTER TURNING

BOOK TWO
THE LOST HEIR

BOOK FOUR
THE DARK SECRET

BOOK SIX
MOON RISING

BOOK EIGHT
ESCAPING PERIL

LEGENDS
DARKSTALKER

WINGS OF FIRE

— LEGENDS — DARKSTALKER

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

BY TUI T. SUTHERLAND

ADAPTED BY BARRY DEUTSCH
AND RACHEL SWIRSKY

ART BY JAKE PARKER
COLOR BY MAARTA LAIHO



AN IMPRINT OF

 **SCHOLASTIC**





PYRRHIA

Queen Carmine's Palace

Queen Lagoon's Island Palace

Kingdom of the Sea

Bay of a Thousand Scales

Diamond Spray Delta

Mud Kingdom

Queen Crane's Palace

Rainforest Kingdom

Diamond Spray River

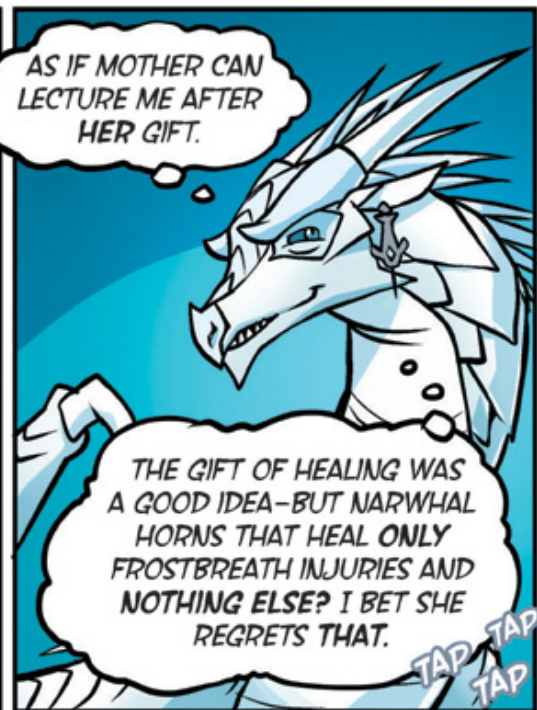
THE EVENTS OF THIS BOOK TAKE PLACE IN
PYRRHIA'S SHROUDED PAST, MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND
YEARS BEFORE THE WAR OF SANDWING SUCCESSION
AND THE EVENTS OF *THE DRAGONET PROPHECY*.

PROLOGUE

PRINCE ARCTIC
ICEWING ANIMUS
SON OF QUEEN DIAMOND

PRINCE ARCTIC HAD
ONLY THREE WEEKS LEFT
BEFORE HIS GIFTING
CEREMONY. HE WAS TO
USE HIS ANIMUS POWER
FOR THE FIRST AND
ONLY TIME TO BESTOW A
GLORIOUS, MAGICAL GIFT
ON THE ICEWING TRIBE—
IF ONLY HE COULD FIGURE
OUT WHAT TO GIVE.

RULES, RULES, RULES.
JUST ONE MORE WAY FOR
MOTHER TO KEEP ME UNDER
HER CLAWS.



HOW COULD
I FORGET? MOTHER
WANTS ME TO
MARRY HER!

BUT SHE'S
SO DULL...

MAYBE I COULD
ENCHANT SOMETHING
TO MAKE ANY DRAGON
INTERESTING.

DON'T WASTE
YOUR GIFT!



WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE
THE TRIBE? IF YOU WERE
AN ANIMUS?

OH, I DON'T
KNOW.

THINK ABOUT IT.
I'D REALLY LIKE
TO KNOW.



SORRY,
I CAN'T THINK
OF ANYTHING.





REALLY THINK ABOUT IT.
TELL ME WHENEVER YOU
COME UP WITH SOMETHING.

SEEMS LIKE A
WASTE OF MY TIME.
UNLESS YOU'RE HAVING
TROUBLE COMING UP
WITH AN IDEA?



AUGH!

ACK!



SORRY! I JUST
NEEDED TO GET
OUTSIDE. LOOK AT
THAT SUNSET!

GREAT
KINGDOMS, IT'S
COLD OUT HERE.
I MIGHT LITERALLY
DIE!



I'VE NEVER
SEEN A NIGHTWING
BEFORE.

I KNEW SHE'D
BE BLACK, BUT
I DIDN'T EXPECT
THE DARK GREEN
UNDERSCALES.

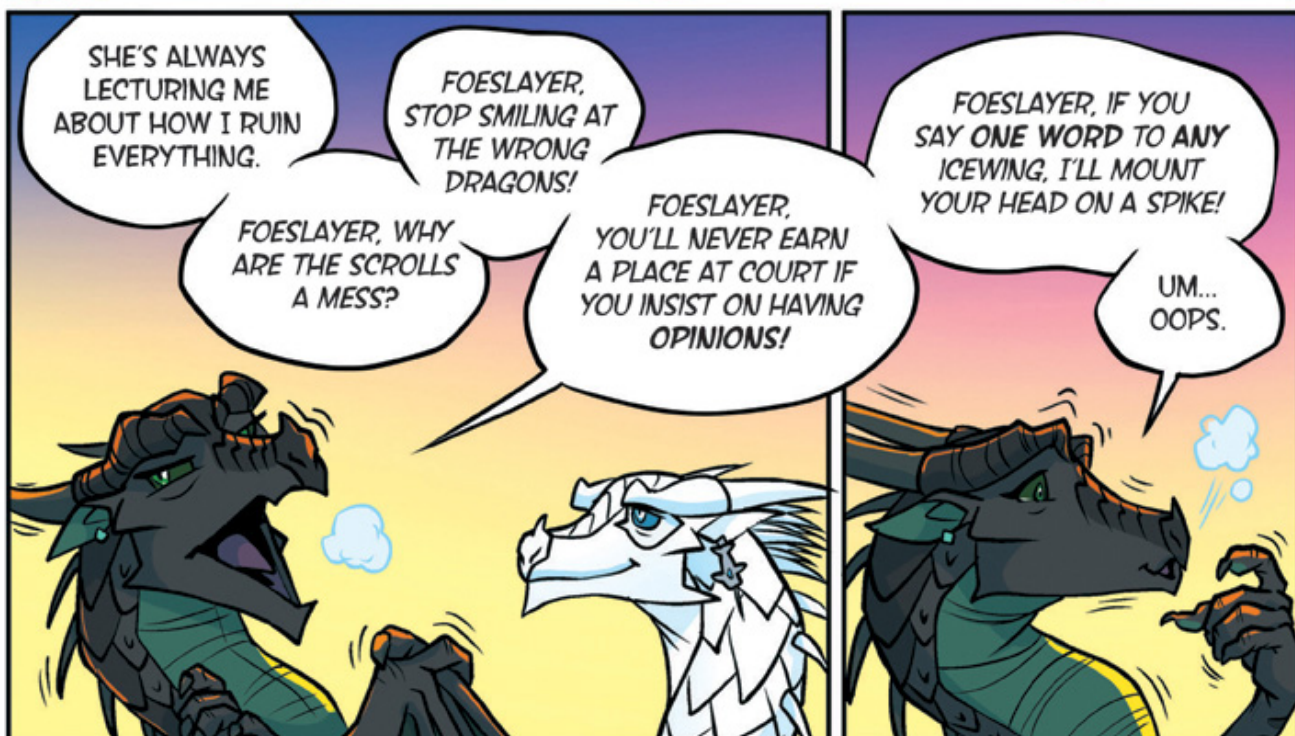
OR THE SILVER
SCALES GLITTERING
ON HER WINGS.

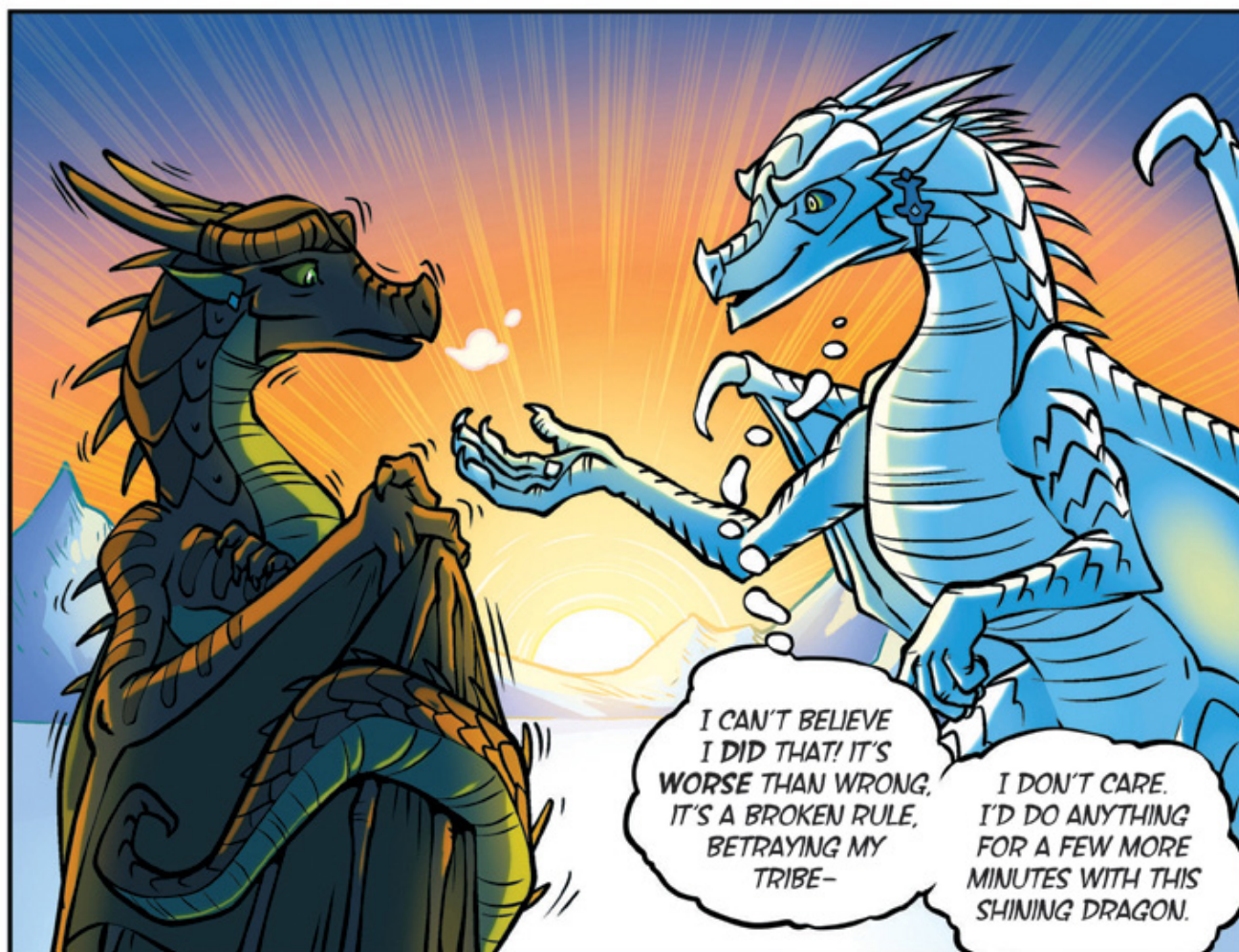


OR HER DARK
GREEN EYES.

I FEEL LIKE I
COULD TAKE OFF
AND TOUCH THE
MOONS.









WHOA.
THAT-THAT
WORKED.



SO THE RUMORS ARE
TRUE—YOUR TRIBE DOES
HAVE MAGIC.

ONLY A FEW OF US.
SO DOES YOURS,
DOESN'T IT?

ONLY A FEW
OF US. I DON'T.



CAN YOU ENCHANT ANYTHING?
TO DO ANYTHING? WHY DON'T YOU
RULE THE CONTINENT?

THERE ARE STRICT RULES.
WE CAN ONLY USE OUR POWERS
ONCE. THERE ARE LEGENDS ABOUT
LOSING YOUR SOUL IF YOU USE TOO
MUCH MAGIC. IT PROBABLY ISN'T EVEN
TRUE, BUT NO ONE BREAKS RULES IN
THE ICE KINGDOM.



ONCE? BUT THEN...

WELL, PERHAPS I'M
NOT MUCH OF A RULE
FOLLOWER EITHER.



BUT WHY DID YOU DO
THIS—FOR ME? AREN'T
YOU WORRIED ABOUT
YOUR SOUL?

NOT ANYMORE.
IT'S YOURS NOW...
IF YOU WANT IT.



THIS IS A BAD IDEA.
THE VERY WORST. NEITHER
OF OUR TRIBES WOULD FORGIVE
US. MOTHER WOULD NEVER
ALLOW IT.

ALL THE MORE REASON.
I WON'T LET THE QUEEN
CRUSH MY ENTIRE LIFE
BETWEEN HER CLAWS.

IT'S MY LIFE,
MY MAGIC, AND
MY HEART.

I'M ABOUT TO
SAY SOMETHING
REALLY SAPPY.

SAPPIER
THAN WHAT I
JUST SAID?

I JUST—I HAVE THIS
STRANGE FEELING THE
WORLD IS ABOUT TO
CHANGE FOREVER.

PRINCE FATHOM
SEAWING ANIMUS
GREAT-NEPHEW OF
QUEEN LAGOON

FATHOM HAD NEVER THOUGHT
OF HIMSELF AS ANYONE SPECIAL,
AND HE CERTAINLY WASN'T
EXPECTING THAT TO CHANGE
THE DAY OF THE ANIMUS TEST.
FIVE SEAWING DRAGONETS WERE
LINED UP THAT MORNING, THEIR
BLUE AND GREEN SCALES WET
FROM THE HISSING WAVES OF
THE OCEAN. ALL OF THEM HAD
TURNED TWO YEARS OLD WITHIN
THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

I DARE YOU
TO GRAB THAT
SEAGULL AND
EAT IT.

SHHHH.

YOU KNOW
YOU WANT TO.

QUIT TALKING
TO ME, INDIGO.

WHO, ME?
WHAT DID
I SAY?



STOP.
THAT.



PEARL, YOUR
BROTHER'S SO
NOISY!



YOU'LL BOTH GET IN TROUBLE
IF QUEEN LAGOON CATCHES YOU
PLAYING AROUND.

I'M JUST SITTING HERE. A MODEL
DRAGONET, ME. IT'S HIS PRINCE-NESS
WHO SHOULD STOP WITH THE CHITCHAT.



THIS IS A
WASTE OF TIME,
YOUR MAJESTY.

GRANDFATHER
ALBATROSS! HE
MAKES ME SO
NERVOUS...



I DON'T WANT
AN APPRENTICE.
BESIDES, NOBODY
EVER TESTED ME,
AND WE STILL
DISCOVERED MY
POWER.

YOU ARE DONE
COMPLAINING
ABOUT THIS.

YES, YOUR
MAJESTY.

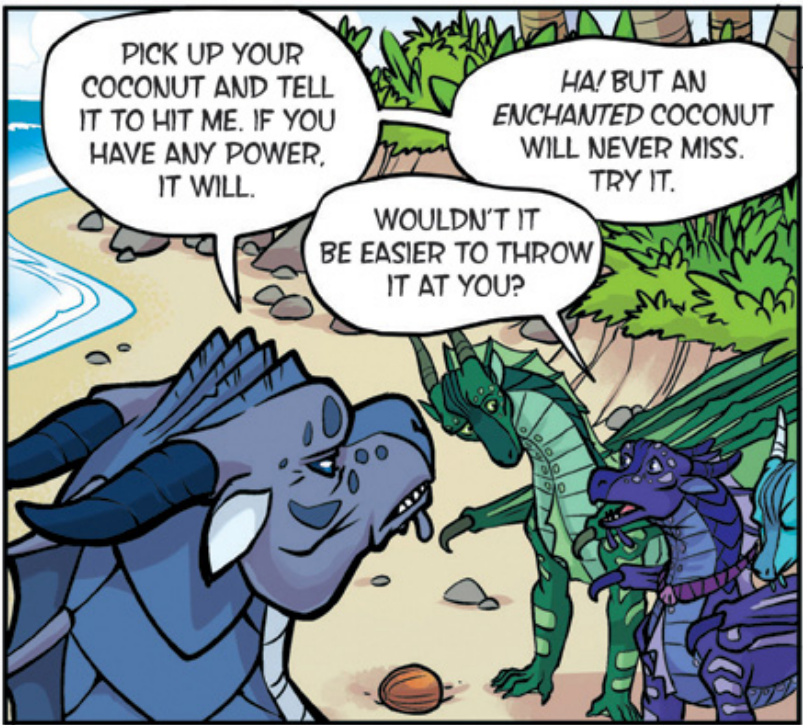
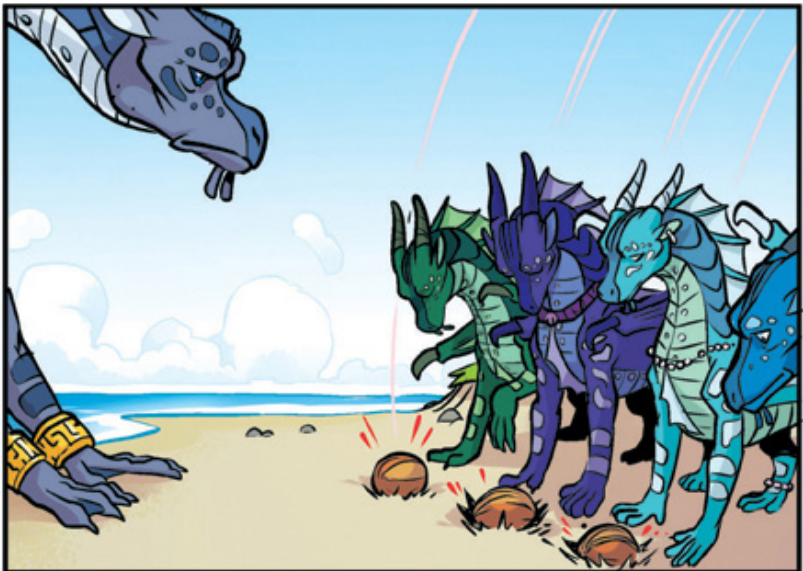
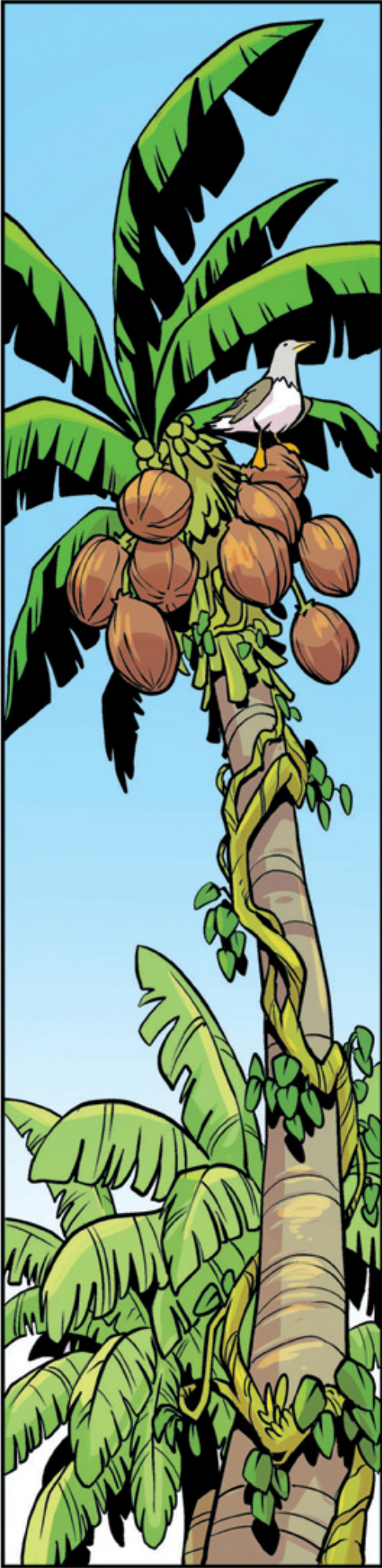
SQUACK

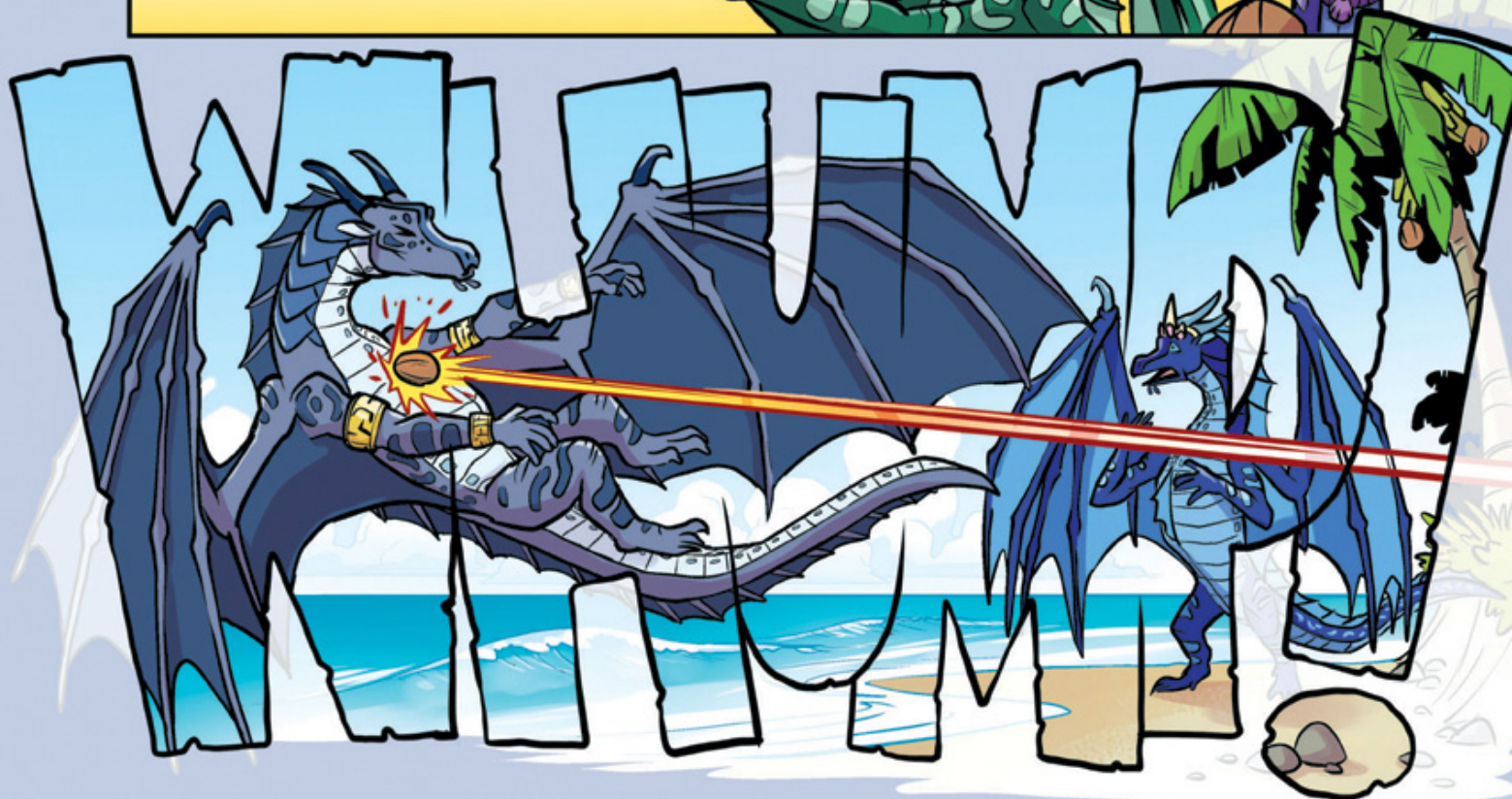
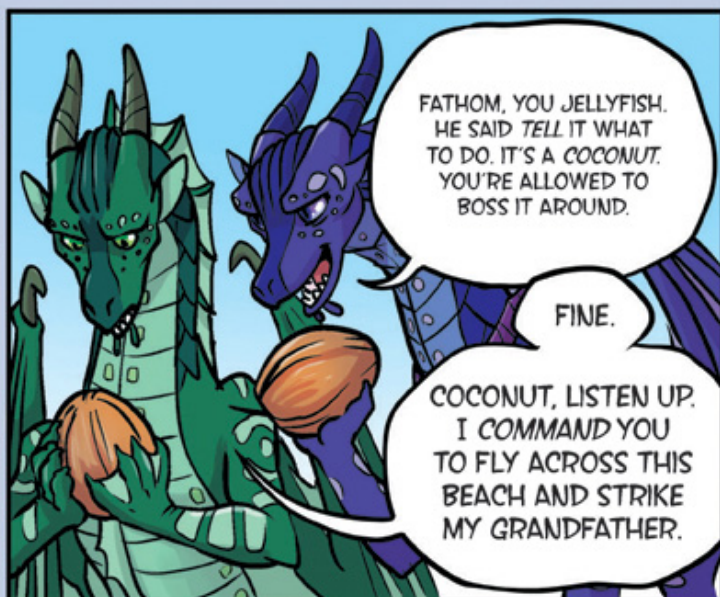


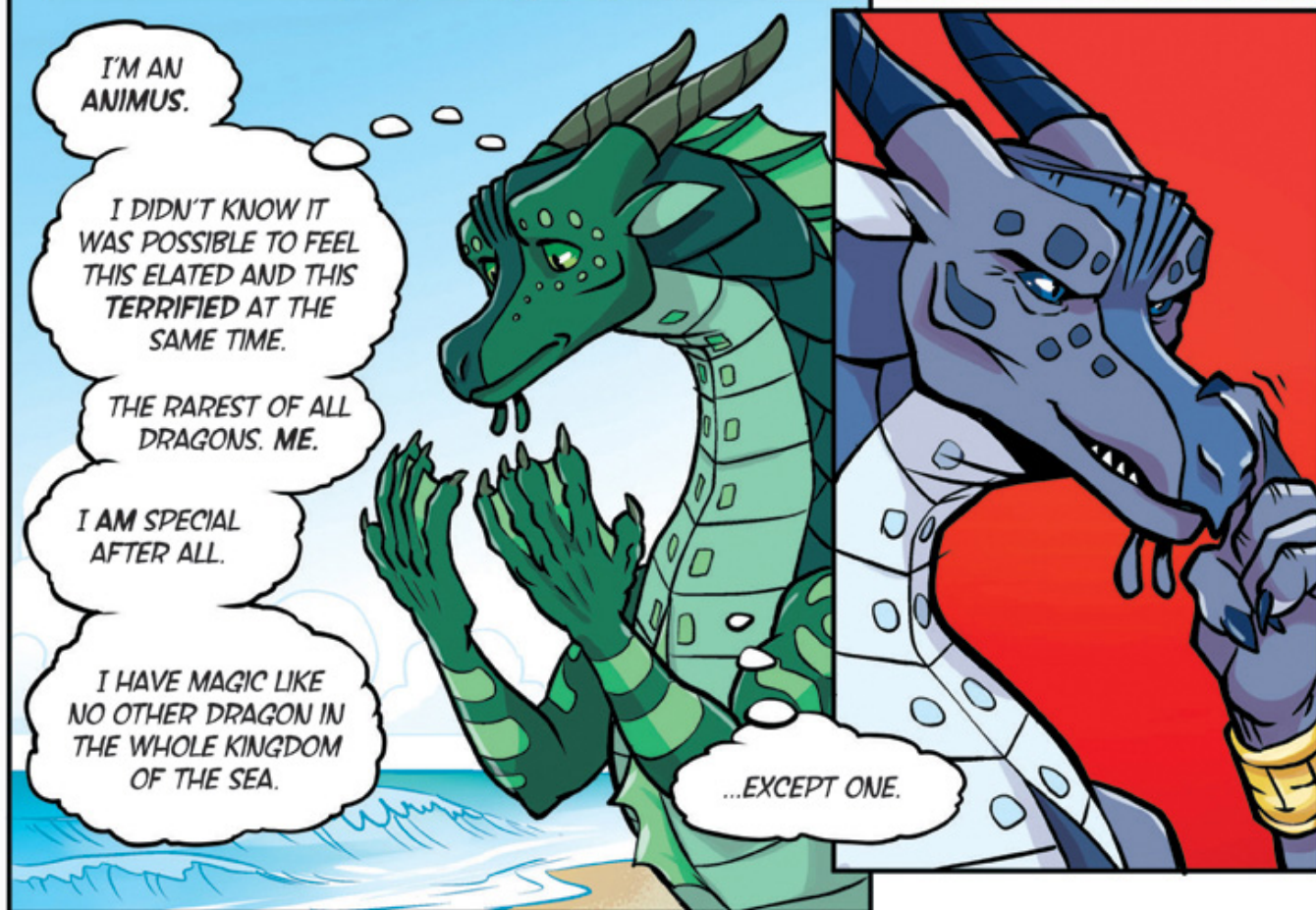
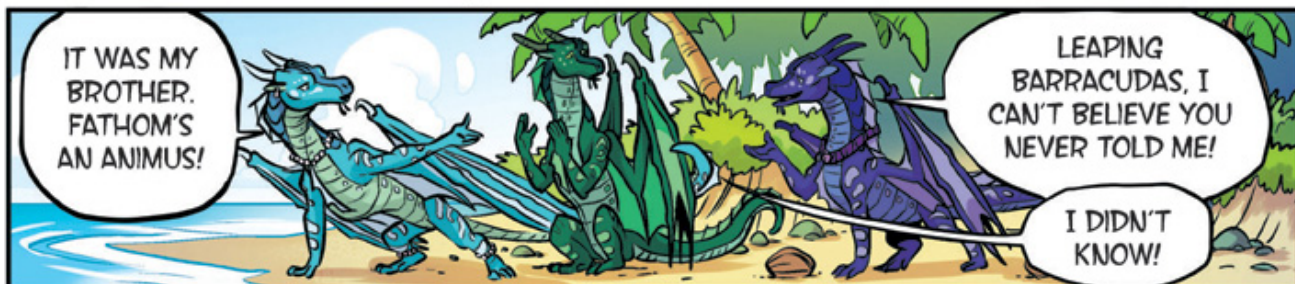
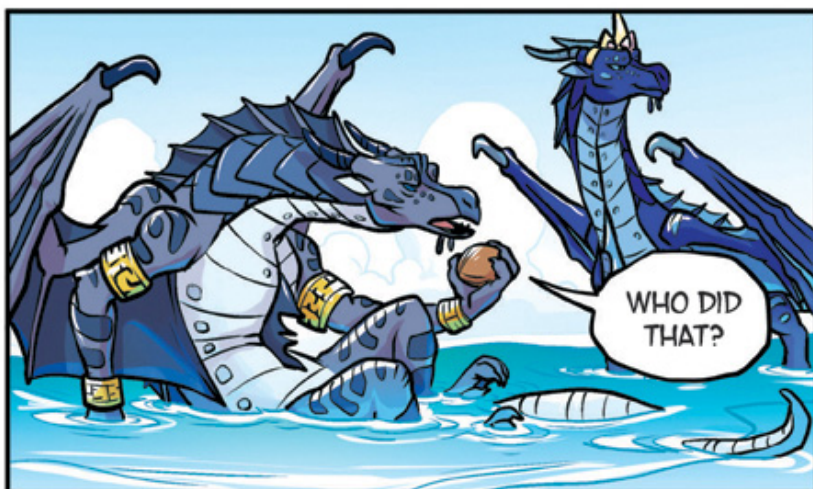
DRAGONETS.
TODAY'S TEST WILL
DETERMINE WHETHER
YOU WERE BORN WITH
ANIMUS MAGIC. THIS RARE
BUT IMMENSE POWER
ENABLES A DRAGON TO
ENCHANT ANY OBJECT.
IT CAN DO ALMOST
ANYTHING EXCEPT BRING
DRAGONS BACK FROM
THE DEAD.



I AM OUR TRIBE'S
FIRST AND ONLY ANIMUS.
ALMOST CERTAINLY, NONE
OF YOU WILL BE THE
SECOND.



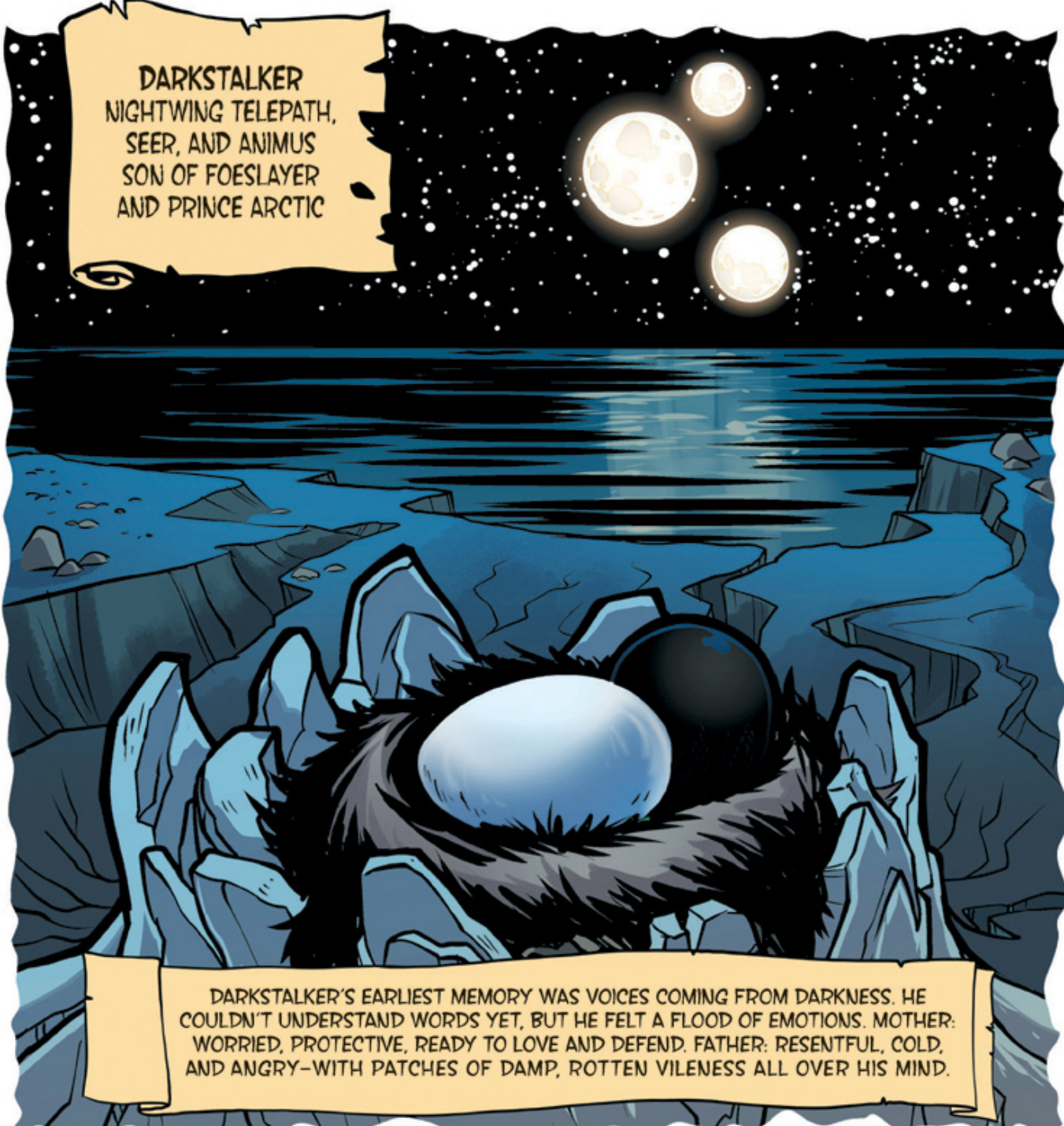




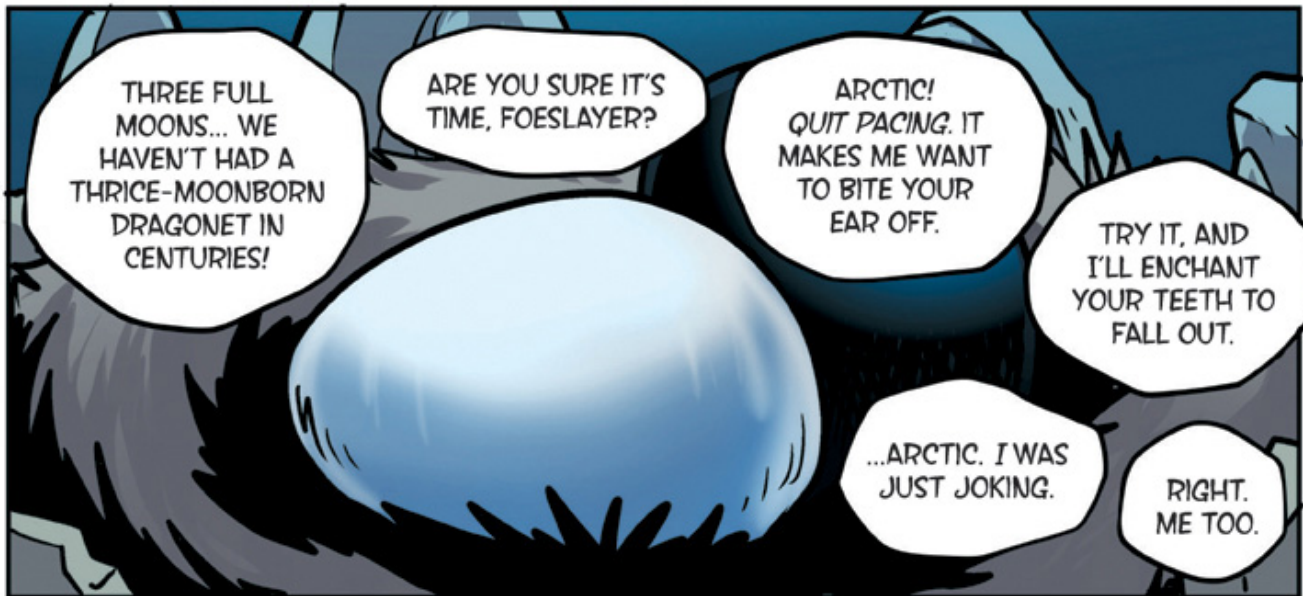




DARKSTALKER
NIGHTWING TELEPATH,
SEER, AND ANIMUS
SON OF FOESLAYER
AND PRINCE ARCTIC



DARKSTALKER'S EARLIEST MEMORY WAS VOICES COMING FROM DARKNESS. HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WORDS YET, BUT HE FELT A FLOOD OF EMOTIONS. MOTHER: WORRIED, PROTECTIVE, READY TO LOVE AND DEFEND. FATHER: RESENTFUL, COLD, AND ANGRY—WITH PATCHES OF DAMP, ROTTEN VILENESS ALL OVER HIS MIND.



THREE FULL
MOONS... WE
HAVEN'T HAD A
THRICE-MOONBORN
DRAGONET IN
CENTURIES!

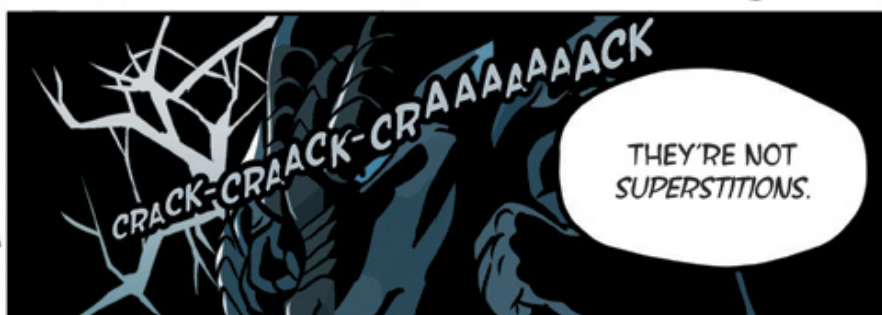
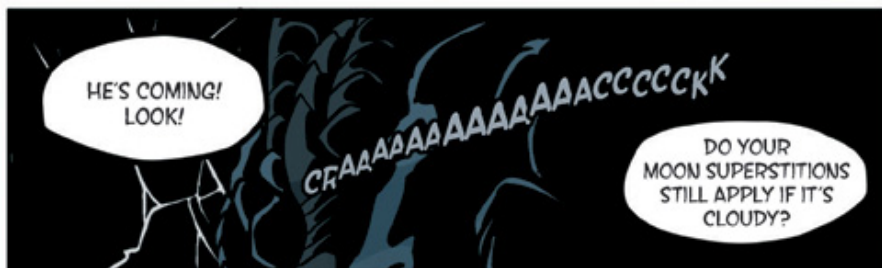
ARE YOU SURE IT'S
TIME, FOESLAYER?

ARCTIC!
QUIT PACING. IT
MAKES ME WANT
TO BITE YOUR
EAR OFF.

TRY IT, AND
I'LL ENCHANT
YOUR TEETH TO
FALL OUT.

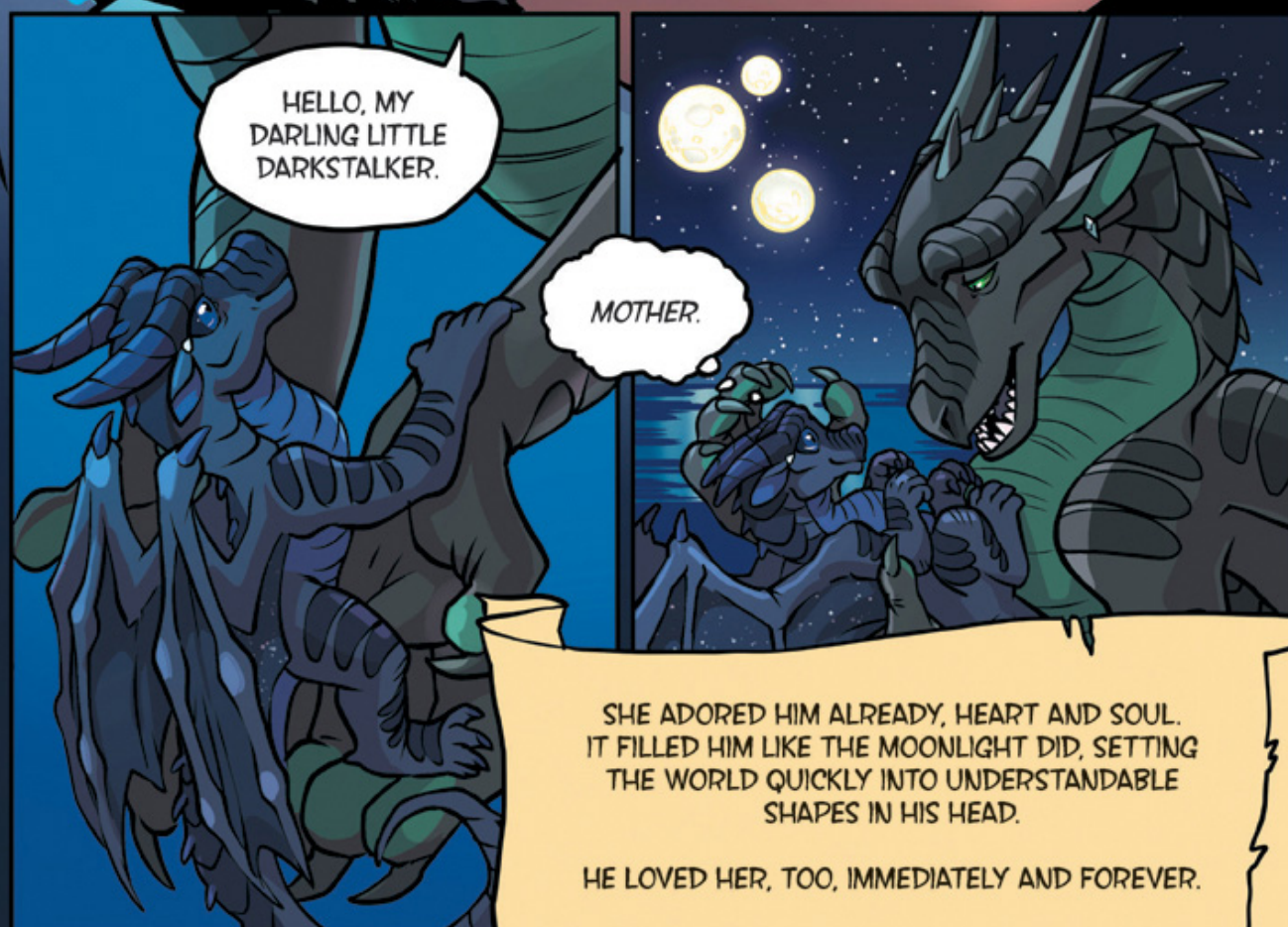
...ARCTIC. I WAS
JUST JOKING.

RIGHT.
ME TOO.





THE MOONS!



HELLO, MY
DARLING LITTLE
DARKSTALKER.

MOTHER.

SHE ADORED HIM ALREADY, HEART AND SOUL.
IT FILLED HIM LIKE THE MOONLIGHT DID, SETTING
THE WORLD QUICKLY INTO UNDERSTANDABLE
SHAPES IN HIS HEAD.

HE LOVED HER, TOO, IMMEDIATELY AND FOREVER.



DARKSTALKER?
THAT'S THE CREEPIEST
NAME I'VE EVER HEARD.

FATHER.

HIS MIND IS AWFUL.
HE'S DONE SOMETHING
TERRIBLE. HE MAY DO
MUCH WORSE.

I WANT TO
BURN HIM TO
ASHES.

...BUT DEEP
INSIDE, HE LOVES
MOTHER. SO I'LL
WAIT. FOR NOW.

PAIN
FURY



IT IS NOT CREEPY.
HE CHASES BACK THE
DARKNESS. IT'S HIS
PREY.

BESIDES, IN MY
KINGDOM, MOTHERS
CHOOSE THEIR
DRAGONETS'
NAMES.

FINE. BUT IF THE
OTHER ONE HATCHES,
I WANT TO NAME IT.



THIS ONE LOOKS
EVERY INCH A
NIGHTWING. NOT A
SHRED OF ME IN HIM
AT ALL.



I COULD SUMMON
MY SISTER WITH
MY MAGIC-TOUCH
HER EGG, OPEN
HER MIND TO THE
SONG OF THE
MOONS.

WE'D BE THE
SAME. THE SAME
POWERS... AND
THE SAME LOVE
FROM MOTHER.

LOVE I ALREADY
HAVE TO SHARE
WITH THAT ICE
MONSTER CALLED
FATHER.



NO. MY SISTER WILL BE ALL
RIGHT. SHE'LL COME OUT IN HER OWN
TIME--TOMORROW, WHEN THE MOONS
ARE NO LONGER FULL.



A THOUSAND FUTURES FLASHED BEFORE
DARKSTALKER AND DISAPPEARED AS HE MADE
HIS FIRST CHOICE.



FUTURES WHERE HIS SISTER JOINED
HIS QUEST FOR POWER.



FUTURES WHERE SHE FOUGHT HIM
AND STOPPED HIM.



FUTURES WHERE THEY
WERE BEST FRIENDS.



FUTURES WHERE
ONE OF THEM
KILLED THE OTHER,
OR VICE VERSA.



SORRY, LITTLE
SISTER. THIS IS MY
MOTHER. THOSE ARE
MY FULL MOONS.

THIS IS MY
WORLD NOW.

FATHOM

A FEW DAYS AFTER THE ANIMUS TEST, ALBATROSS SUMMONED FATHOM FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT WAS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR GEOGRAPHY LESSON, AND FATHOM FELT HIS STOMACH LIFT AND DROP AND ZIGZAG JUST LIKE THE LINES OF THE CANYONS AROUND THE DEEP PALACE.

GET EXCITED, FATHOM! YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS.

I WISH YOU COULD COME WITH ME.

I WOULD, BUT YOUR GRANDFATHER SAID TO COME ALONE.

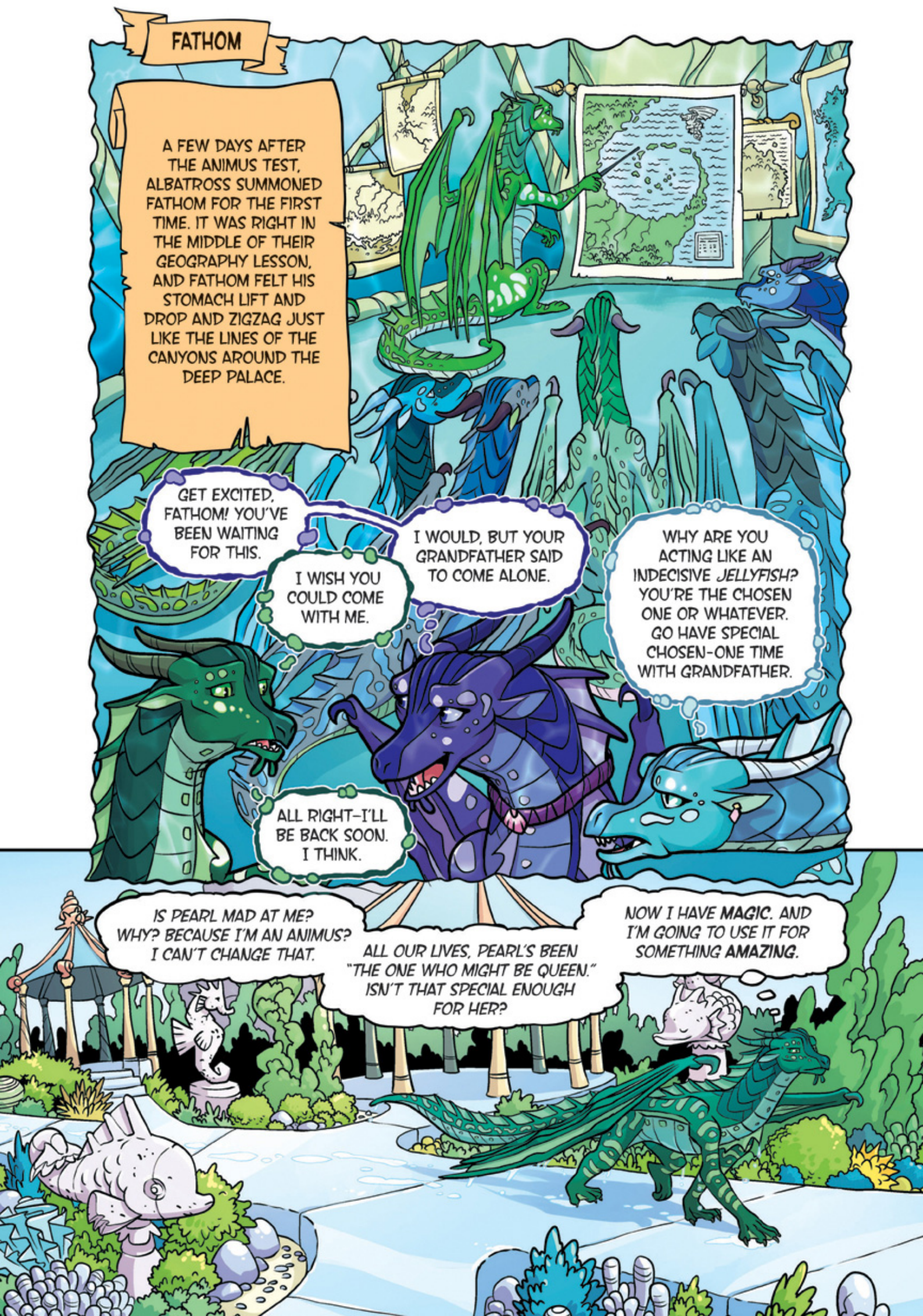
WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE AN INDECISIVE JELLYFISH? YOU'RE THE CHOSEN ONE OR WHATEVER. GO HAVE SPECIAL CHOSEN-ONE TIME WITH GRANDFATHER.

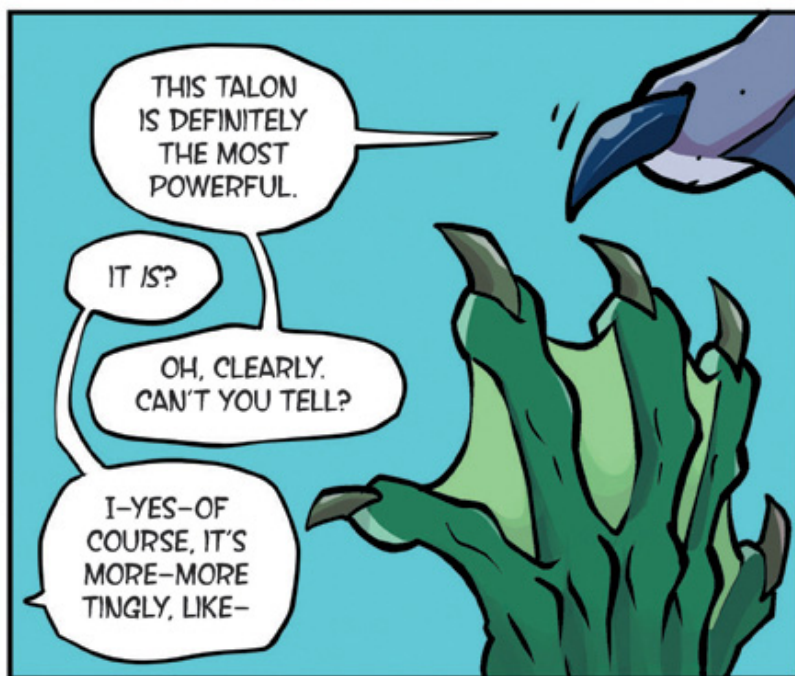
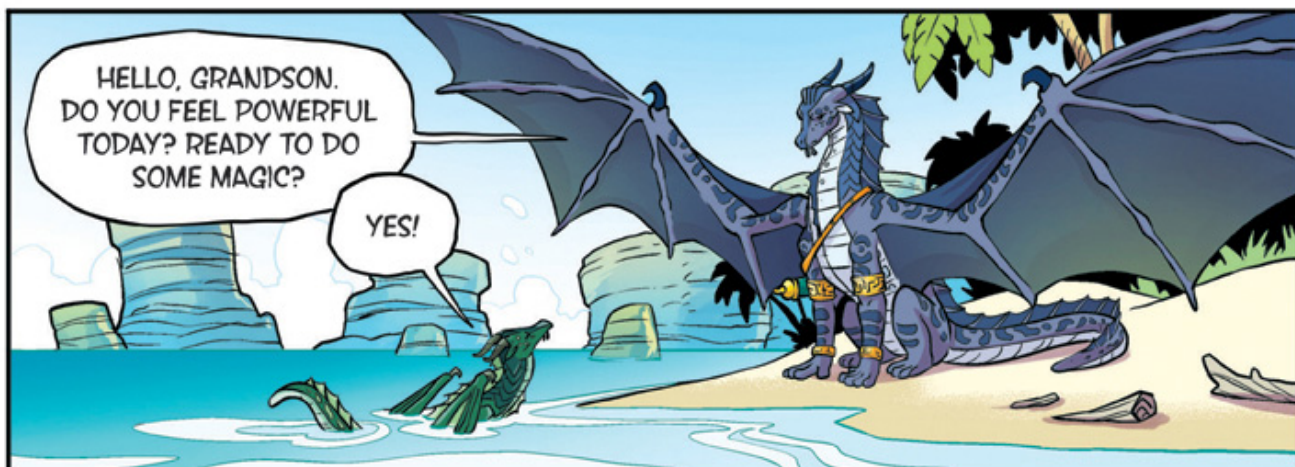
ALL RIGHT—I'LL BE BACK SOON. I THINK.

IS PEARL MAD AT ME? WHY? BECAUSE I'M AN ANIMUS? I CAN'T CHANGE THAT.

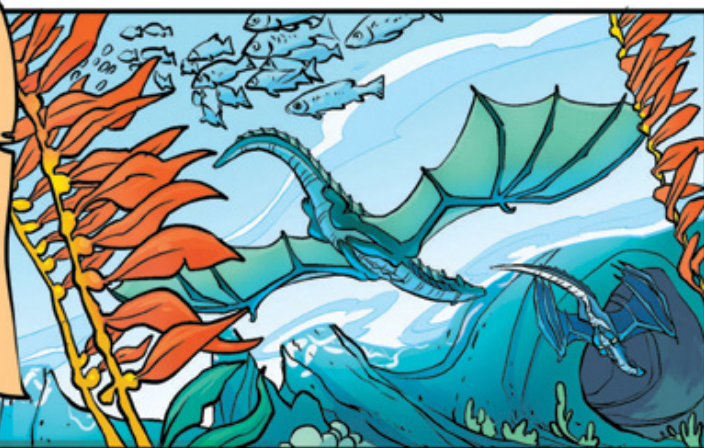
ALL OUR LIVES, PEARL'S BEEN "THE ONE WHO MIGHT BE QUEEN." ISN'T THAT SPECIAL ENOUGH FOR HER?

NOW I HAVE MAGIC. AND I'M GOING TO USE IT FOR SOMETHING AMAZING.





THEY SWAM A LONG WAY FROM THE DEEP PALACE. BETWEEN SCATTERED ISLANDS, SCHOOLS OF BRIGHT FISH SWAM THROUGH FRONDS OF ORANGE-YELLOW KELP. ALBATROSS LED FATHOM INTO A TUNNEL THAT BURROWED THROUGH THE FOUNDATION OF A LARGE ISLAND, UNTIL AT LAST THEY EMERGED INTO A WIDE LAKE IN THE CENTER.



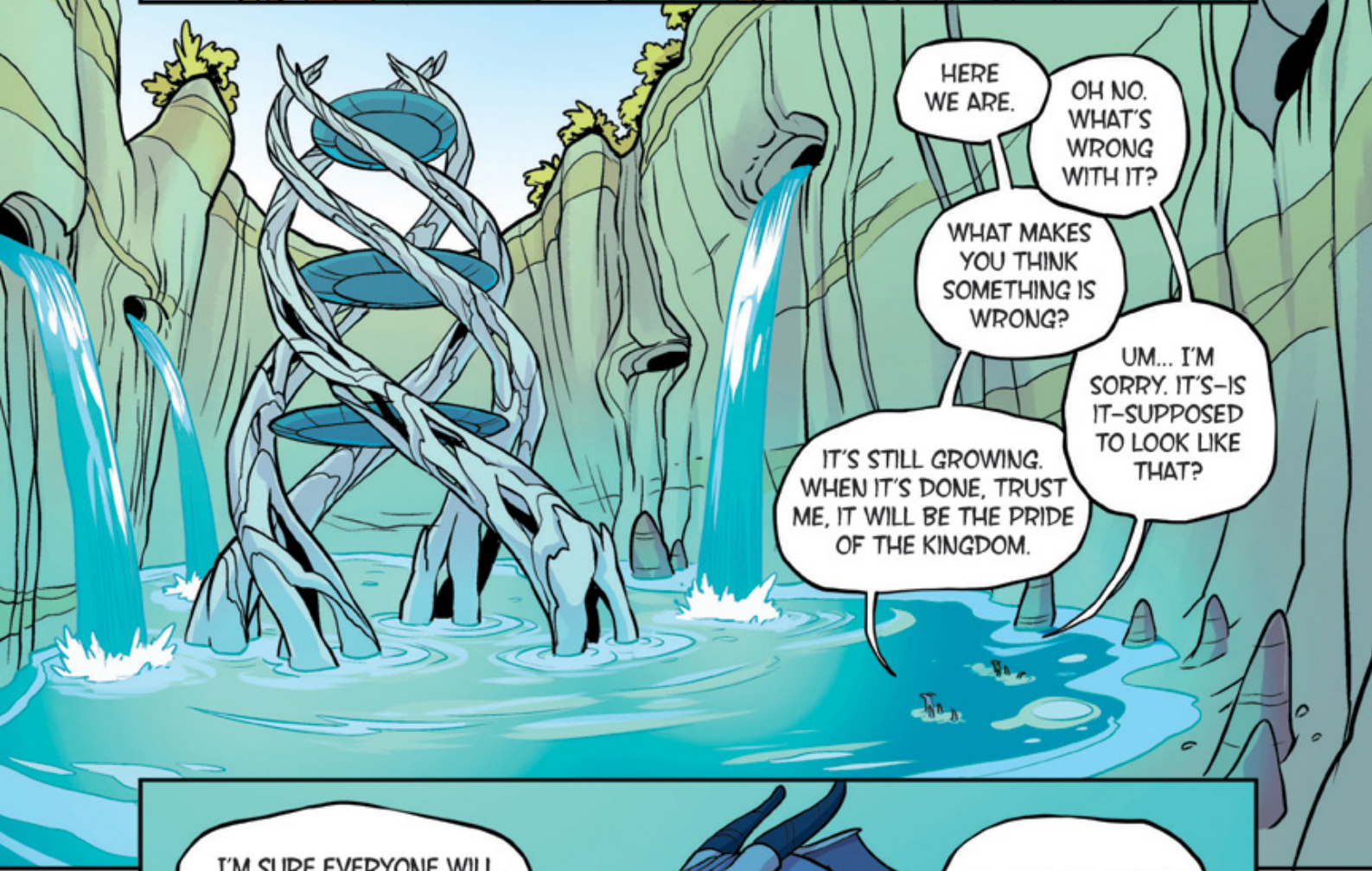
HERE WE ARE.

OH NO. WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SOMETHING IS WRONG?

UM... I'M SORRY. IT'S—IS IT—SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE THAT?

IT'S STILL GROWING. WHEN IT'S DONE, TRUST ME, IT WILL BE THE PRIDE OF THE KINGDOM.



I'M SURE EVERYONE WILL LOVE IT! BECAUSE IT'S A... THE BEST POSSIBLE... SUCH A COOL...

IT'S A NEW PALACE, GRANDSON. THE SUMMER PALACE—ENTIRELY GROWN BY ANIMUS POWER.

HERE'S WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE WHEN IT'S FINISHED.





THIS IS
BEAUTIFUL!

IT'S GOING
TO GROW LIKE
THIS?

THAT'S THE PLAN.
I CHECK REGULARLY,
MAKING ADJUSTMENTS
AND ADDITIONS.

IT'S BEEN GROWING
FOR MORE THAN
SEVEN YEARS. IT
SHOULDN'T BE MUCH
LONGER.

SEVEN YEARS?

I ENCHANTED IT TO GROW
CAREFULLY AND PRECISELY
LIKE A TREE. OTHERWISE IT
COULD DAMAGE THE ISLAND.

I WONDER IF THAT'S TRUE OR
IF HE FORGOT TO TELL IT HOW
FAST TO GROW. THAT WOULD
BE REALLY FRUSTRATING.

GRANDFATHER?
I HAVE AN IDEA.

ALREADY? HOW...
IMPRESSIVE.



IT WAS AN ORDINARY CLAMSHELL. I WAS PRETENDING IT WAS A DRAGON'S MOUTH.



AND THEN MY OLDER SISTERS, LAGOON AND SAPPHIRE, STARTED TEASING ME.

LOOK HOW WEIRD HIS SCALES ARE COLORED!



HIS TAIL IS A FUNNY SHAPE!

HE SWIMS LIKE A FEEBLE OLD DUCK!



NORMAL BROTHER-SISTER TEASING, BUT IT MADE ME SO ANGRY.



IS THIS STUPID BEACH TRASH YOUR PRECIOUS TREASURE?



SO VERY, VERY ANGRY.



I DON'T KNOW WHY—MAYBE IT WAS ANIMUS INSTINCT—BUT I SHOUTED AT THE SHELL—

BITE HER!
BITE ALL HER
CLAWS OFF!

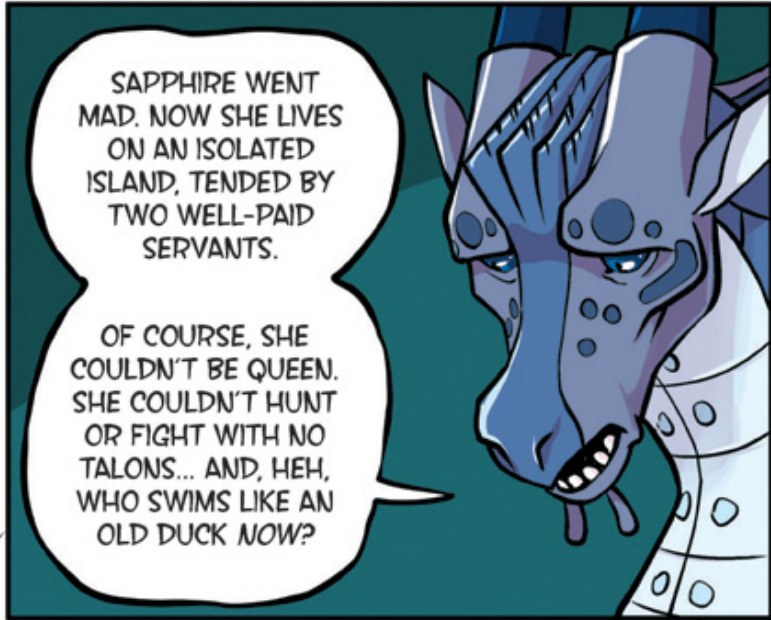


AND THEN I LET GO.





I KNOW. YOU ARE LUCKY
YOUR TALENT WAS
DISCOVERED IN A MUCH
LESS GRUESOME WAY.



SAPPHIRE WENT
MAD. NOW SHE LIVES
ON AN ISOLATED
ISLAND, TENDED BY
TWO WELL-PAID
SERVANTS.

OF COURSE, SHE
COULDN'T BE QUEEN.
SHE COULDN'T HUNT
OR FIGHT WITH NO
TALONS... AND, HEH,
WHO SWIMS LIKE AN
OLD DUCK NOW?



I'VE BEEN THINKING
ABOUT ALL THE AMAZING
THINGS I CAN DO—BUT
COULD I HURT SOMEONE?

I WON'T. I'LL BE
CAREFUL AND SMART.
SMARTER THAN
GRANDFATHER.



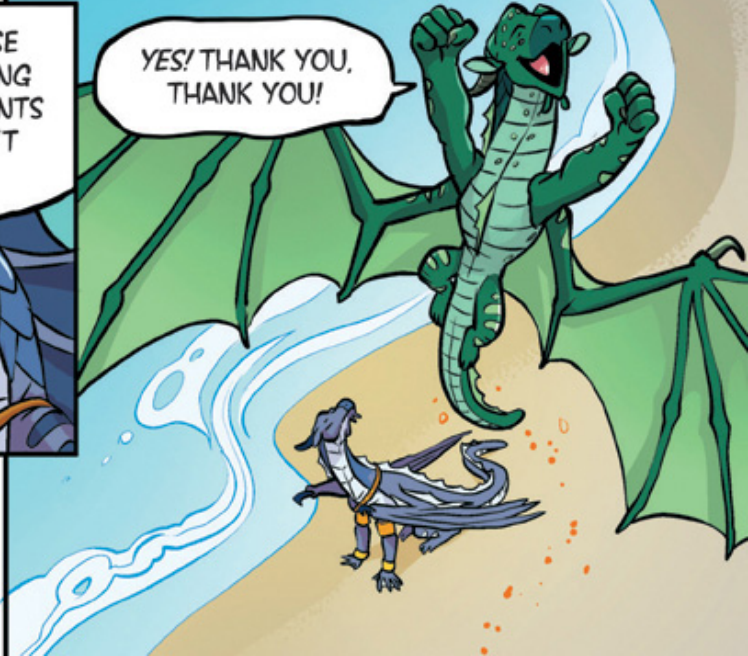
I'M NOT TRYING TO
SCARE YOU. BUT YOU MUST
UNDERSTAND. YOU ARE
DANGEROUS.

YOU MUST ALWAYS BE CAREFUL.
NEVER USE YOUR MAGIC UNLESS I'M
THERE TO SUPERVISE. CONSIDER
EVERY SPELL CAREFULLY FOR WEEKS.
RUN THEM ALL BY ME FIRST.

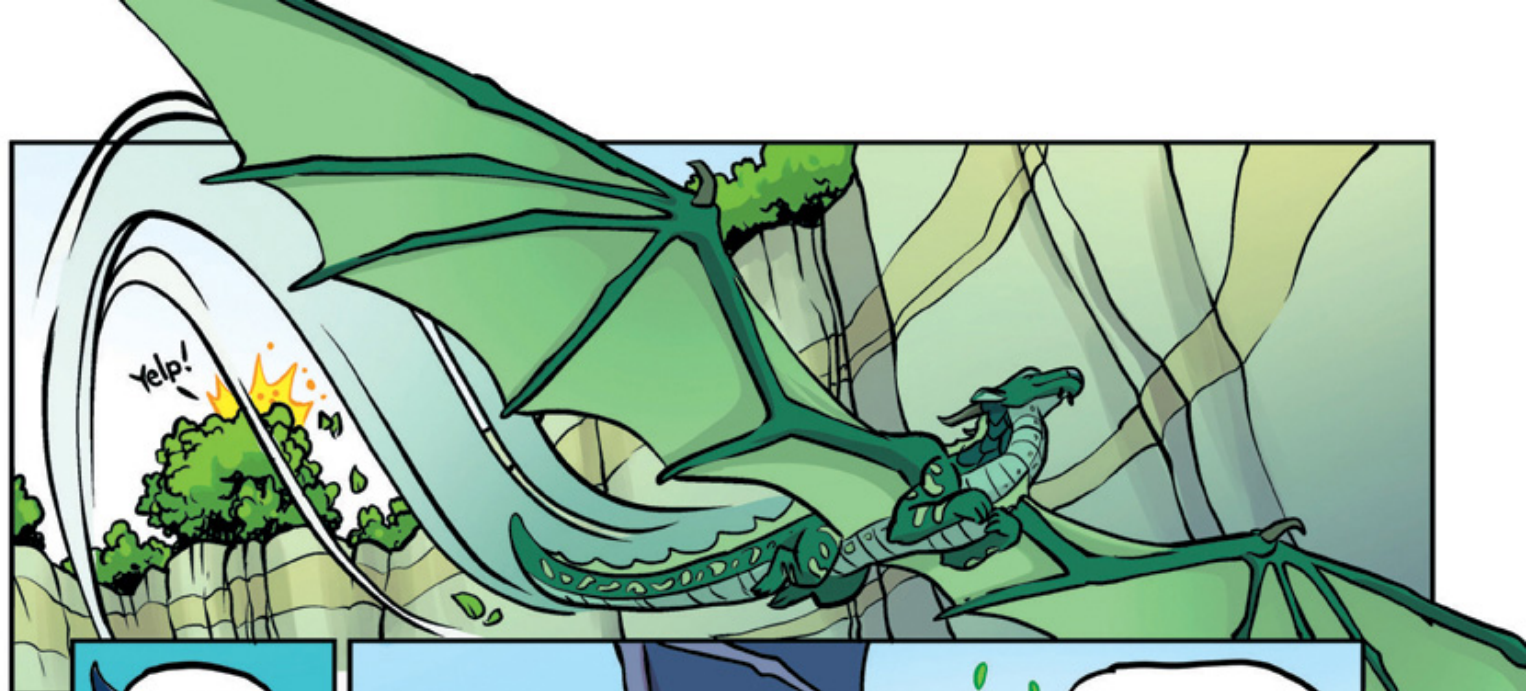


I UNDERSTAND! I PROMISE
TO BE CAREFUL AND ALL THAT.
CAN WE PLEASE TRY SOME
MAGIC NOW?

I SUPPOSE ENCHANTING
A FEW PLANTS
WOULDN'T
HURT.



YES! THANK YOU,
THANK YOU!



A SPY?



I THOUGHT I'D BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.

ON ME? HA! YOU CAUSE MORE TROUBLE THAN I DO.

SINCE YOU'RE HERE, YOU CAN WATCH ME DO MY FIRST REAL SPELL! WITH PLANTS!



ACTUALLY, I'M GETTING TIRED. I THINK WE SHOULD SWIM BACK NOW.

WHAT? JUST ONE VINE? PLEASE?

THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME TO PRACTICE MAGIC, YOUNGSTER.

FATHOM DIDN'T DARE ARGUE WITH HIM, ALTHOUGH HIS SCALES FELT AS IF THEY WERE SEETHING WITH FRUSTRATION. NOBODY SPOKE, NOT EVEN INDIGO, ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE ISLAND PALACE. ALBATROSS LANDED ON THE BEACH IN THE ORANGE LIGHT OF THE SUNSET.

GOOD SESSION TODAY, GRANDSON.

GOOD SESSION? WE DIDN'T EVEN DO ANYTHING!

NO, GRANDFATHER WAS BEING WEIRD EVEN BEFORE WE FOUND YOU.

MAYBE IT WAS MY FAULT?

DO YOU-DO YOU THINK THE QUEEN WILL YELL AT ME FOR SEEING HER SECRET PROJECT? OR... OR MAKE ME STOP BEING FRIENDS WITH YOU?

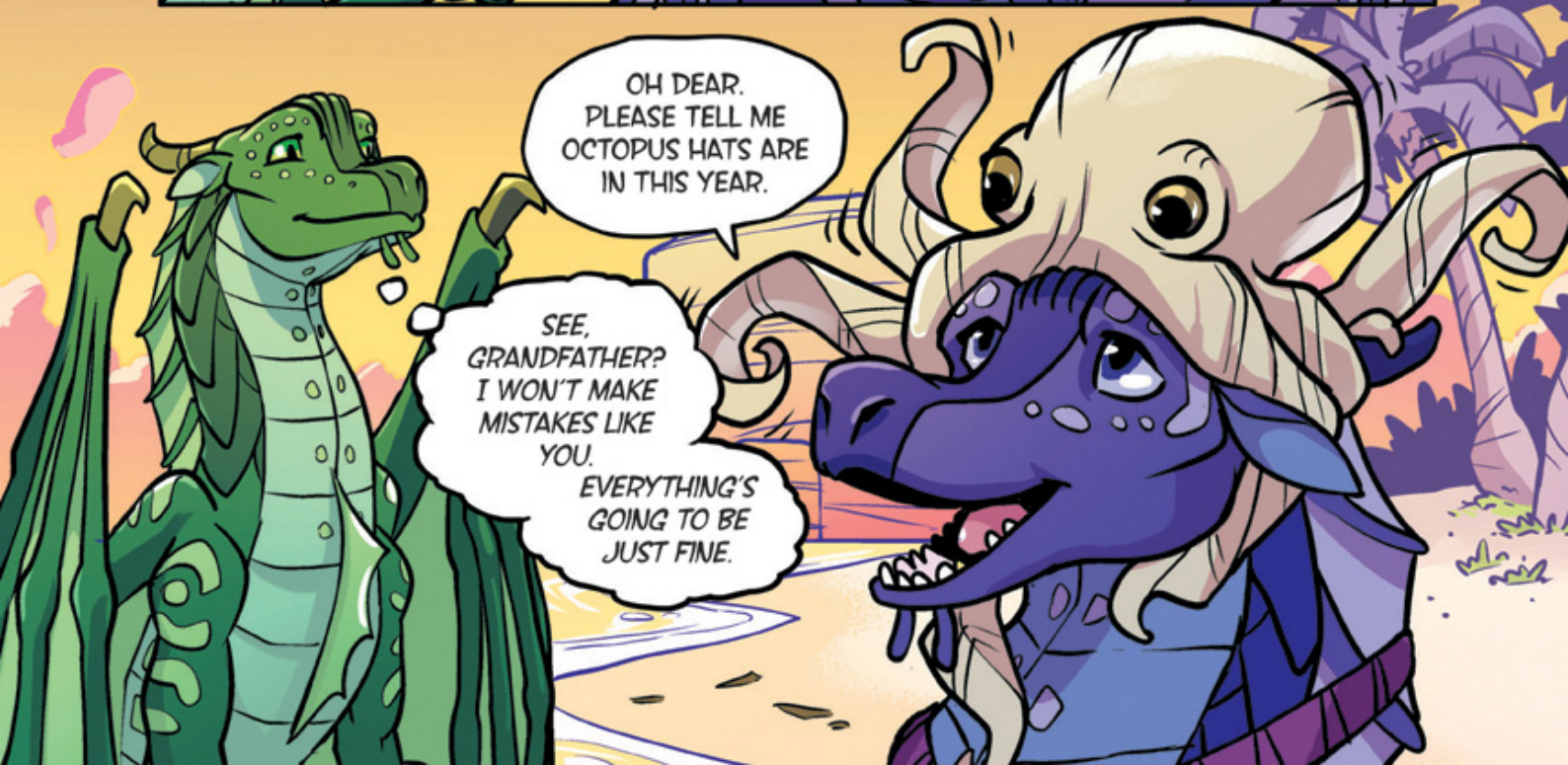
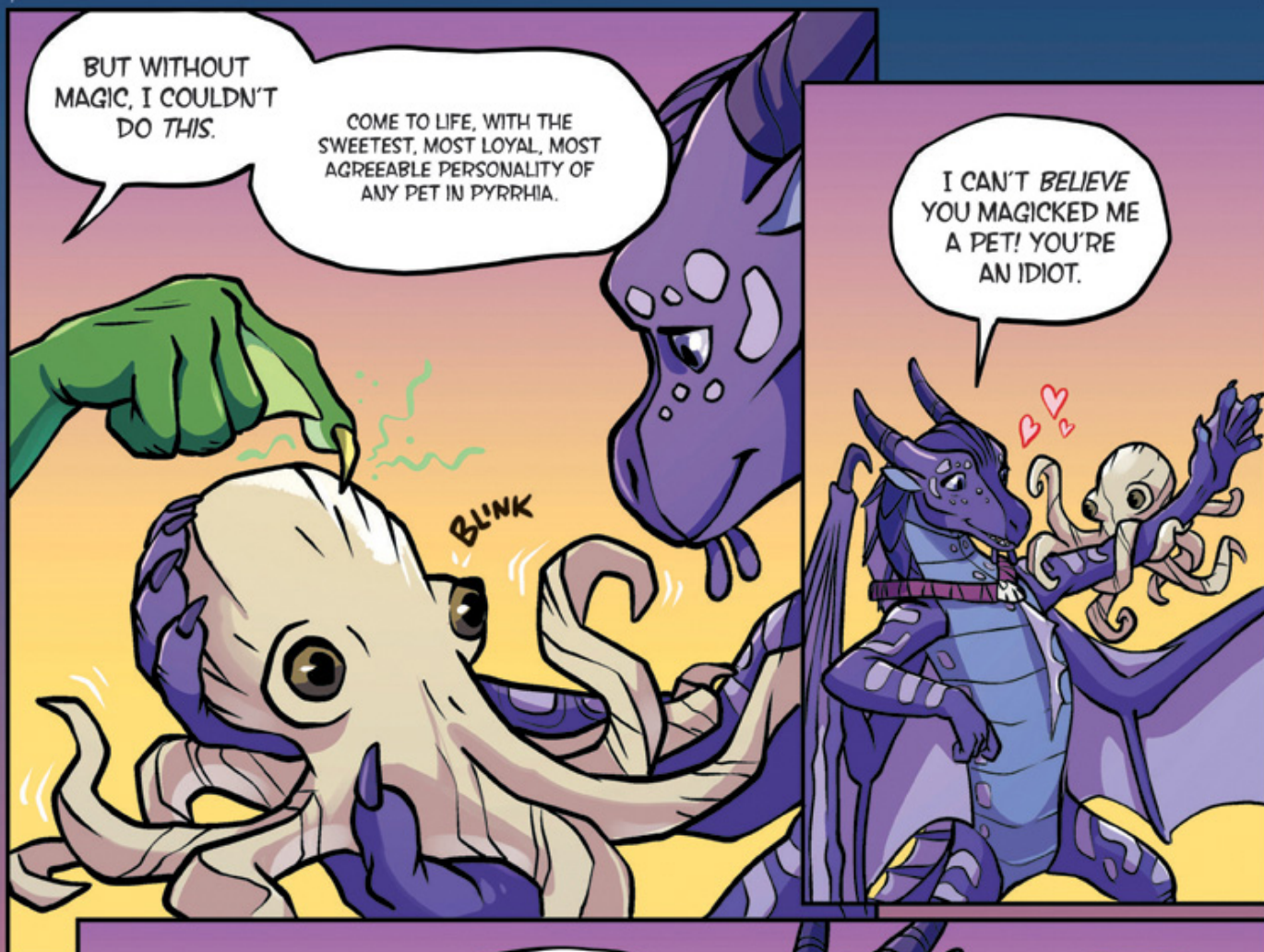
SHE COULD NEVER. I'D ENCHANT HER FACE TO SHUT UP FIRST.

HMM. I WONDER...

DON'T YOU DARE. HE TOLD YOU NOT TO USE YOUR POWER WITHOUT HIS APPROVAL!

ONE TINY LITTLE SPELL WON'T HURT.





A dark grey dragon with purple eyes and a black cape is sitting at a desk in a library. The dragon is holding a small orange cube in its right paw. The library is filled with bookshelves, scrolls, and various magical items. A sign above the dragon reads "CLEARSIGHT NIGHTWING SEER".

CLEARSTIGHT
NIGHTWING SEER

CLEARSTIGHT WAS ALWAYS IN THE LIBRARY. HER PARENTS OFTEN JOKED THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE LET HER EGG HATCH THERE INSTEAD OF ON THE LUNAR HATCHING PEAK. OF COURSE, IF THEY HAD, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN BORN UNDER A FULL MOON, SO SHE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN THE GIFT OF PROPHECY, AND THEN SHE WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TO SPEND SO MUCH TIME IN THE LIBRARY IN THE FIRST PLACE.

A close-up of the dragon's head, showing its purple eyes and sharp teeth. It has a thoughtful or perhaps frustrated expression.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF SEEING THE FUTURE IF YOU CAN'T FIX IT?

BUT HOW CAN I FIND THE RIGHT PATH? THERE ARE SO MANY POTENTIAL FUTURES. EVERY POSSIBLE LIFE, EVERYTHING THAT COULD HAPPEN... AND THE FURTHER AHEAD I LOOK, THE MORE CONFUSING AND RANDOM IT GETS...

IT ALL STARTS WITH DARKSTALKER. I HAVEN'T EVEN MET HIM YET, BUT HE'S A TORRENT OF VISIONS. JOY, LOVE, PAIN, HORROR... TOO SNARLED TO UNTANGLE. I CAN'T EVEN BREATHE WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT.



STEP ONE:
MEET HIM.

STEP TWO:
CHAOS ALONG
EVERY POTENTIAL
TIMELINE.

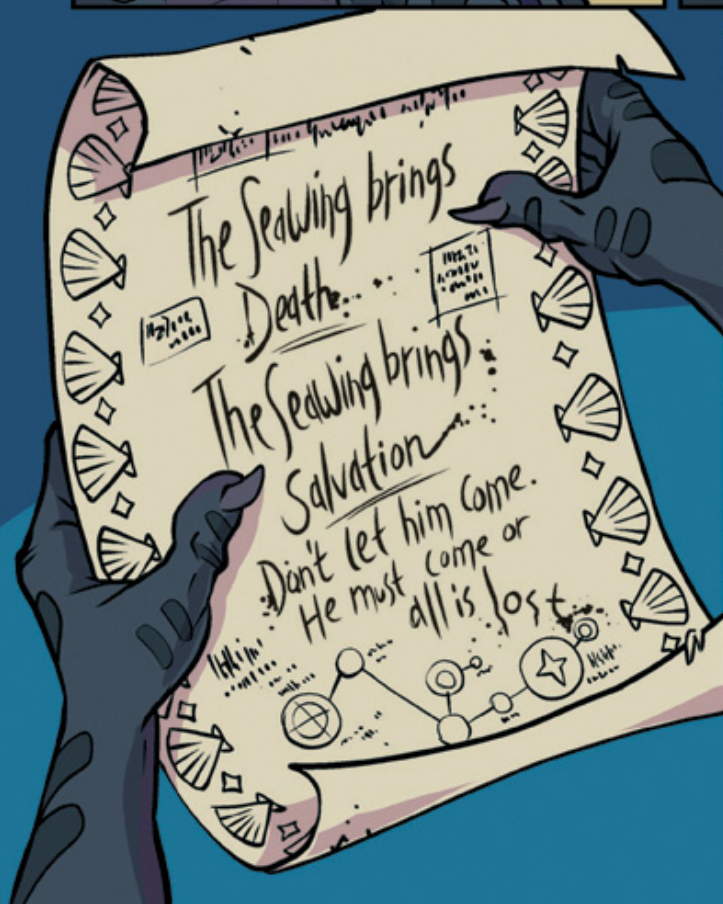
STEP THREE:
KEEP SEARCHING
FOR THE RIGHT
WAY FORWARD.



WHEN DID I
WRITE THIS?

SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS
ABOUT TO HAPPEN IN THE
KINGDOM OF THE SEA. SO MUCH
DEATH. IT'S SO FAR AWAY, I CAN'T
BE SURE ABOUT DETAILS, BUT—
SHOULD I WARN SOMEONE?

I CAN'T SEE ANY
PATHS WHERE ANYONE
WOULD BELIEVE ME. POOR
SEAWINGS.





SIGH

CLEAR SIGHT,
DEAREST.

HELLO,
FATHER.

YOU'RE TOO
YOUNG TO WORRY
THIS MUCH.

OH, GOOD.
THIS ARGUMENT
AGAIN.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA.
I SHOULD WORRY
MORE.

MY PARENTS DON'T UNDERSTAND.
MAYBE THEY CAN'T. THEY'RE NOT
SEERS OR MIND READERS. THEY'RE
SWEET AND ORDINARY—THEIR CHOICES
BARELY AFFECT THE FUTURE.

IF I COULD JUST TELL THEM
EVERYTHING—BUT IN FUTURES
WHERE I DO, THEY ALWAYS
END UP DEAD.



IF I CONCENTRATE
HARDER, I CAN FOLLOW ALL
THE PATHS. I CAN FIGURE
THIS OUT.

ALL THE PATHS? EVERY
FUTURE THAT SPIRALS OUT OF
EVERY CHOICE YOU AND EVERY
OTHER DRAGON MAKES FOR THE
REST OF YOUR LIFE?



CAN YOU HEAR
YOURSELF,
DEAREST? IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE.

EVEN IF YOU COULD
SEE EVERYTHING, THAT
DOESN'T MEAN YOU COULD
CONTROL EVERYTHING.
OR ANYTHING! THINGS
HAPPEN. OTHER DRAGONS
MAKE CHOICES. YOU CAN'T
STOP IT.





IF THE TEACHER PUTS ME IN THAT ART GROUP INSTEAD OF THIS ONE, THE FUTURE CHANGES.



IF I HAVE LUNCH WITH THESE DRAGONS INSTEAD OF THOSE, EVERYTHING'S DIFFERENT.



IF I MISS A DAY OR FORGET MY SCROLL OR GIVE THE WRONG ANSWER OR GIVE THE RIGHT ANSWER, WE ALL MIGHT DIE!



OH, CLEARSIGHT. IT CAN'T BE THAT BAD. ONE TWO-YEAR-OLD DRAGONET CAN'T DOOM THE ENTIRE TRIBE.



HE HAS NO IDEA. NO IDEA.

SIGH



ALL RIGHT—BUT WHEN YOU TURN THREE, YOU'LL GO. AGREED?



JUST REMEMBER, DEAREST, IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD IF YOU LET YOURSELF SLEEP.

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK.

YES, FATHER. I'D BETTER GET BACK TO WORK.

NOT MANY PATHS WHERE I CAN CHANGE THIS FATE. AT LEAST I'VE BOUGHT SOME TIME.



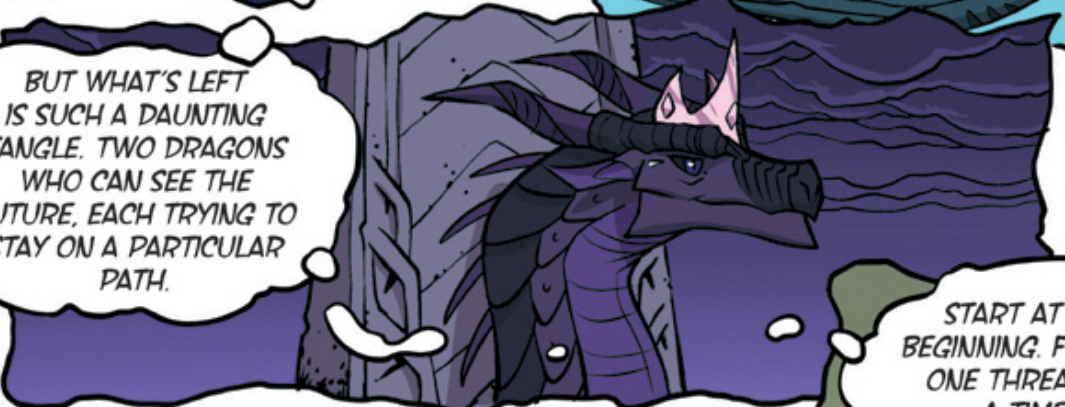
SO I'LL HAVE
TO MEET HIM BEFORE
TOO LONG.



I ALWAYS KNEW
OTHER TIMELINES WERE
UNLIKELY. HE HAS THIS
POWER, TOO; HE WOULD
FIND ME.



MY DARKSTALKER,
MY FATE.



BUT WHAT'S LEFT
IS SUCH A DAUNTING
TANGLE. TWO DRAGONS
WHO CAN SEE THE
FUTURE, EACH TRYING TO
STAY ON A PARTICULAR
PATH.



START AT THE
BEGINNING. FOLLOW
ONE THREAD AT
A TIME.



JUST KEEP TRYING.
FOR THE SAKE OF
THE TRIBE.



I MUST HAVE
THIS GIFT FOR A
REASON.



IF I CAN SEE
ALL OUR POSSIBLE
DESTINIES—SURELY I
CAN STEER US TO THE
RIGHT ONE.



DARKSTALKER

DARKSTALKER COULD HEAR HIS PARENTS' VOICES ECHOING AS HE SWOOPED TOWARD HOME. THEY WERE ARGUING, AS USUAL.

I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT MY OWN TRIBE, FOESLAYER!

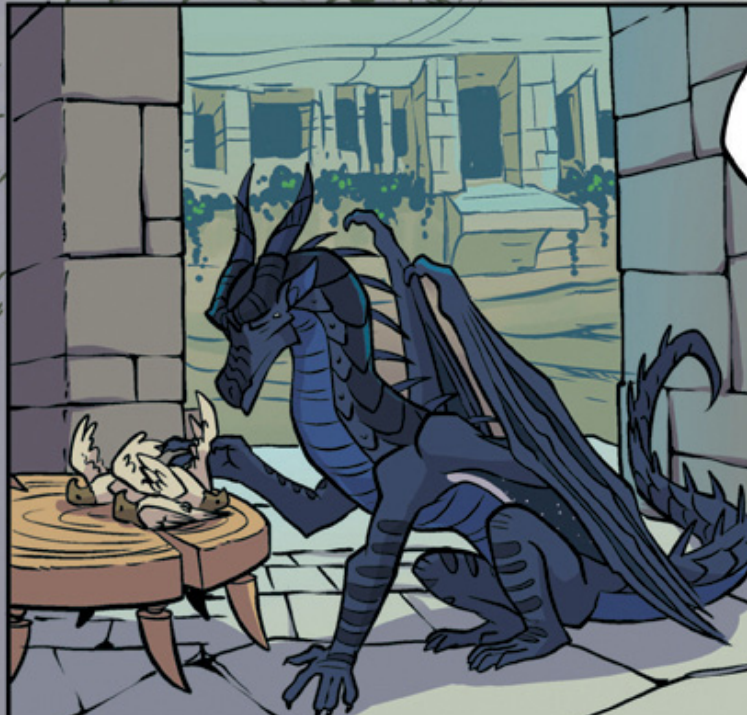
THEY'RE NOT YOUR TRIBE ANYMORE, ARCTIC! WE ARE!

THE QUEEN ISN'T EVEN ASKING YOU TO JOIN THE ARMY. SHE'S OFFERING YOU A POSITION IN THE CASTLE! YOU LOVE STUPID CASTLES.

SHE'S NOT HONORING ME. SHE JUST WANTS MY POWER.

SHE WANTS THE GIFT I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN THE ICEWINGS. SHE WANTS ME TO GIVE IT TO YOUR TRIBE INSTEAD.

THIS IS YOUR TRIBE NOW, TOO, ARCTIC. NO ONE'S USING YOU. WE'RE JUST TRYING TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO DO OTHER THAN MOPING.



IT'S NOT *MOPING* TO BE ANGRY ABOUT BEING STUCK IN THIS *BLISTERING WASTELAND*.

WELL, IF YOU'RE SO *MISERABLE*, WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO THE ICE KINGDOM?

MAYBE I SHOULD.



DON'T THEY KNOW
WHITEOUT'S HERE? HOW
DARE THEY FIGHT LIKE THIS
IN FRONT OF HER!

FATHER PARADES HER
AROUND THE TRIBE, THEN
WHEN THEY GET HOME, HE
ACTS LIKE SHE'S A NECKLACE
HE CAN HANG UP UNTIL HE
WANTS IT AGAIN.



HEY. HOW LONG
HAVE THEY BEEN
DOING THIS?

I DON'T
KNOW.



I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE
TO FIGURE OUT MY SISTER'S
THOUGHTS. SHE SEEMS SO
QUIET AND SPACED OUT—
THEN SUDDENLY SHE'LL MAKE
THE SMARTEST OBSERVATION.
SHE'S THE ONLY DRAGON
I KNOW WHO CAN
SURPRISE ME.

IF I'D HELPED HER OUT
OF THE EGG—IF SHE WERE
MOONBORN—WOULD SHE
BE MORE LIKE OTHER
DRAGONS?

I'M GLAD SHE'S
NOT. SHE'S PERFECT
AS SHE IS.



MY MOTHER WANTS
ME TO GO HOME, TOO—
ON ONE CONDITION.
READ IT YOURSELF.

JUST READ IT.

HOW DID YOU GET A
LETTER FROM QUEEN
DIAMOND? THIS COULD BE
CONSIDERED TREASON!



IF I CONCENTRATE,
I CAN SEE THE LETTER IN
MOTHER'S THOUGHTS—







FATHOM

QUEEN LAGOON LOVED THROWING EXTRAVAGANT PARTIES, BUT EVERYONE KNEW TONIGHT'S WAS GOING TO BE EVEN FANCIER THAN USUAL. THE QUEEN WAS EAGER TO IMPRESS—AND INTIMIDATE—THE VISITING SKYWING ENVOYS BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN.

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T GO TO THE PARTY TONIGHT.

OH, NO. NO WAY. YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME STUCK WITH ALL MY ANCIENT AUNTS AND UNCLES. HOW WOULD I SURVIVE WITHOUT YOU?

THEY'RE YOUR FAMILY. WHY DO I HAVE TO BE TORTURED, TOO?

BESIDES, THE QUEEN WOULD BE MUCH HAPPIER IF I STAYED HERE, ESPECIALLY WITH THE SKYWINGS VISITING.

WELL... INDIGO'S PROBABLY RIGHT ABOUT THAT. QUEEN LAGOON SEEMS TO CARE A LOT MORE ABOUT WHO I SPEND TIME WITH NOW THAT I'M AN ANIMUS.

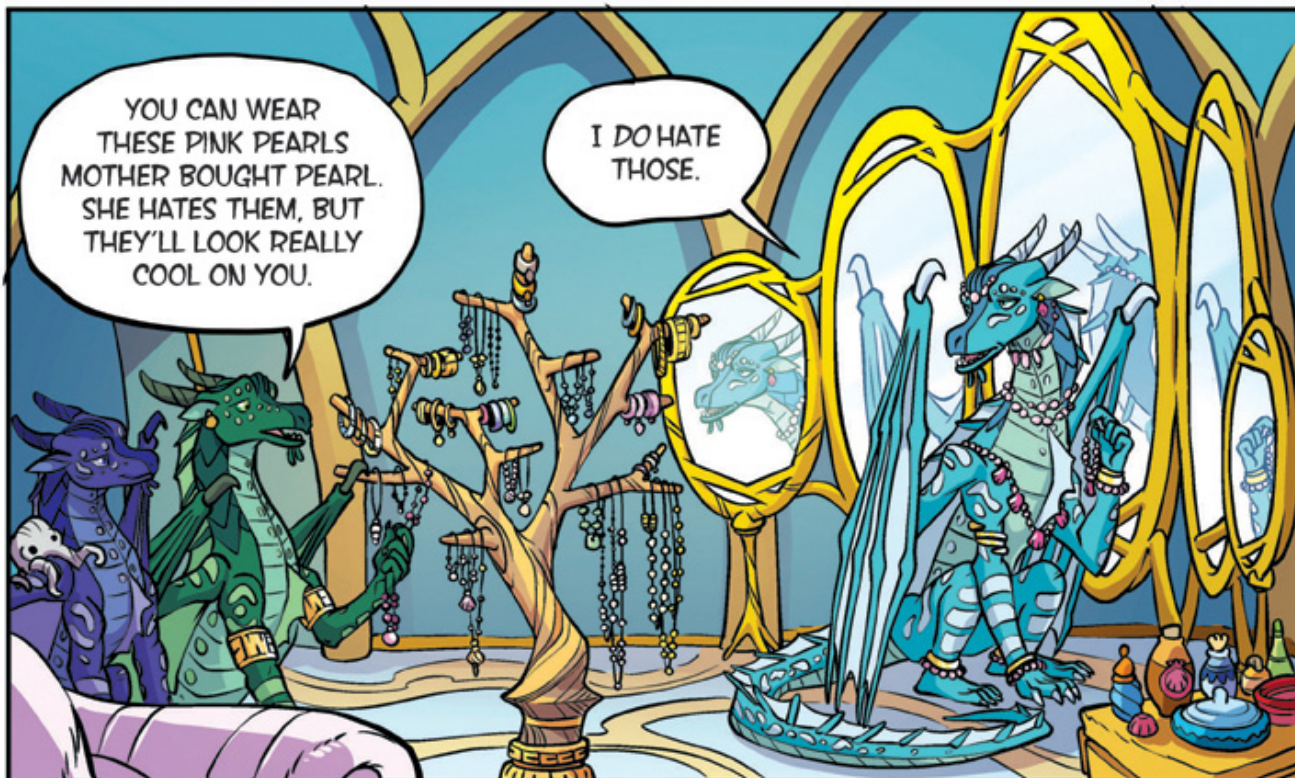
I'D BE THE ONLY ONE AT THE GATHERING WHO WASN'T DRIPPING IN JEWELS.

YOU DON'T NEED JEWELRY. YOU HAVE THE BEST SMILE IN ALL THE KINGDOMS.

SMILE IN FRONT OF THE QUEEN? SURELY THAT'S NOT ALLOWED!



HERE!



YOU CAN WEAR THESE PINK PEARLS MOTHER BOUGHT PEARL. SHE HATES THEM, BUT THEY'LL LOOK REALLY COOL ON YOU.

I DO HATE THOSE.



ARE YOU SURE? WON'T MANTA BE UPSET IF SHE SEES ME WEARING THEM?

MOTHER WILL BE THRILLED. SHE THINKS YOU'RE VERY ENTERTAINING.



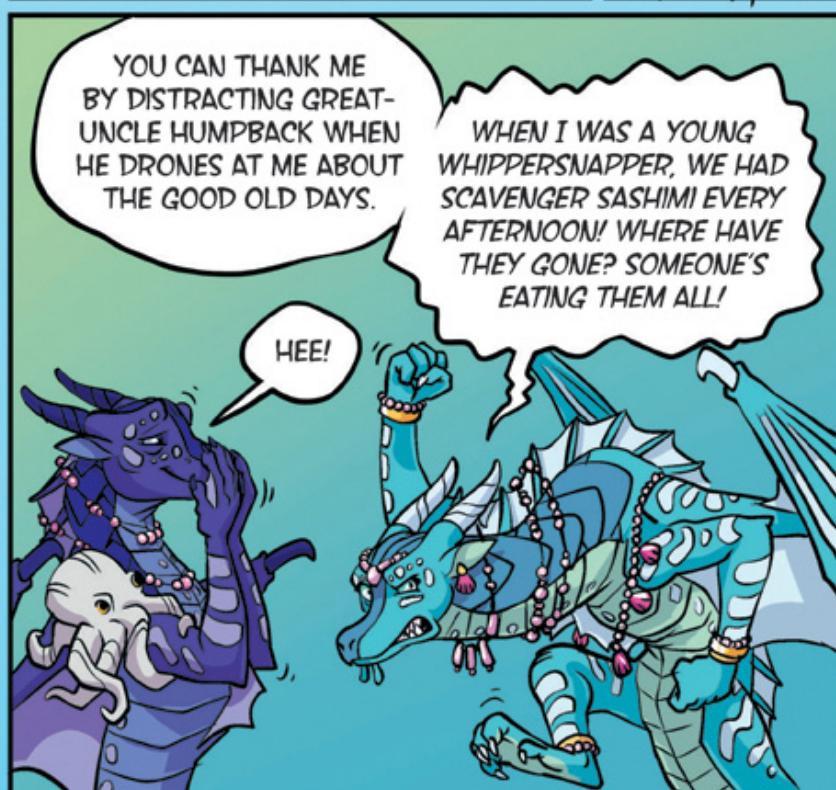
MOTHER LOVES YOU. SHE WON'T MIND.

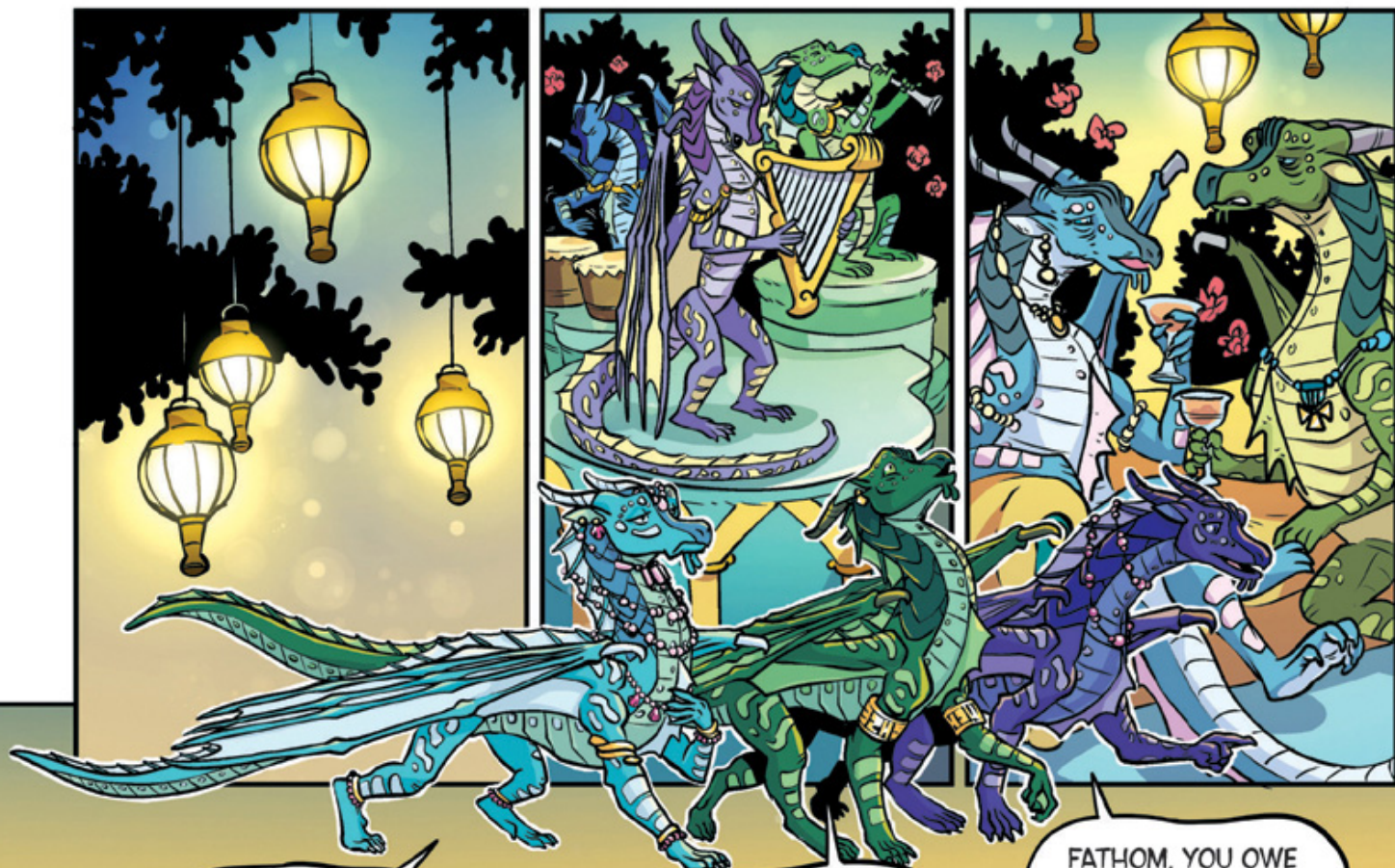
IT'S NOT WEIRD I WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH INDIGO THAN ANYONE ELSE. I ALWAYS DID.

IT'S NOT WEIRD SHE'S THE FIRST DRAGON I THINK OF. SHE ALWAYS WAS.

BUT WHY DOES MY HEART SPEED UP WHEN WE STAND THIS CLOSE?

HOW DO I WEAR THESE?

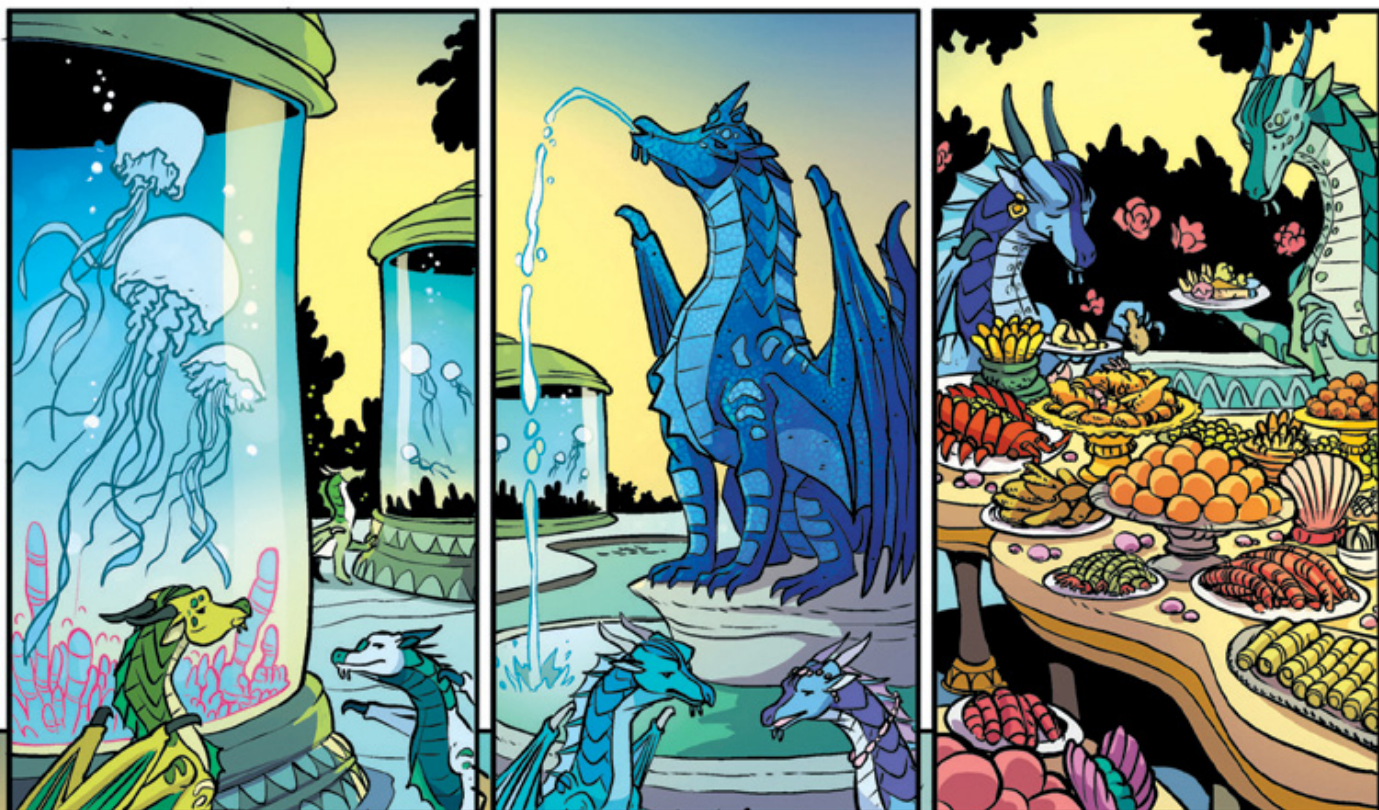




THERE ARE EVEN
MORE AUNTS AND
UNCLES THAN USUAL.

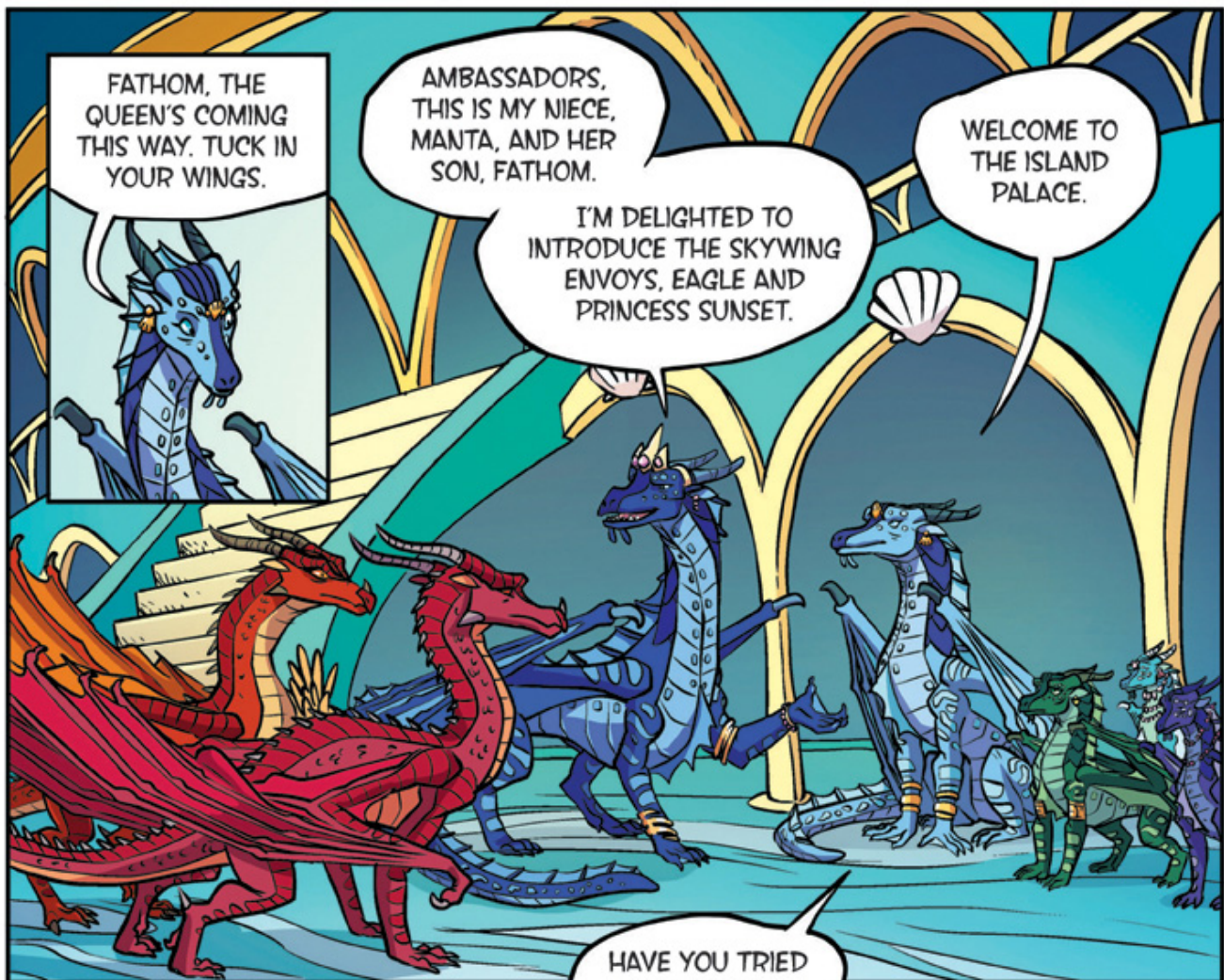
OOO, LOOK AT HOW
THE LANTERNS MAKE
EVERYTHING GLOW.

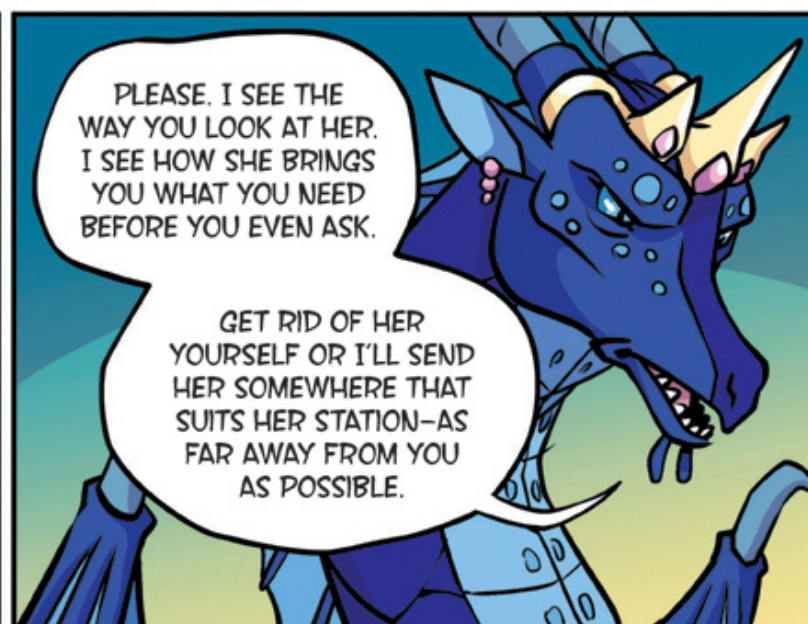
FATHOM, YOU OWE
ME ONE OF THOSE
ORANGE DRINKS.

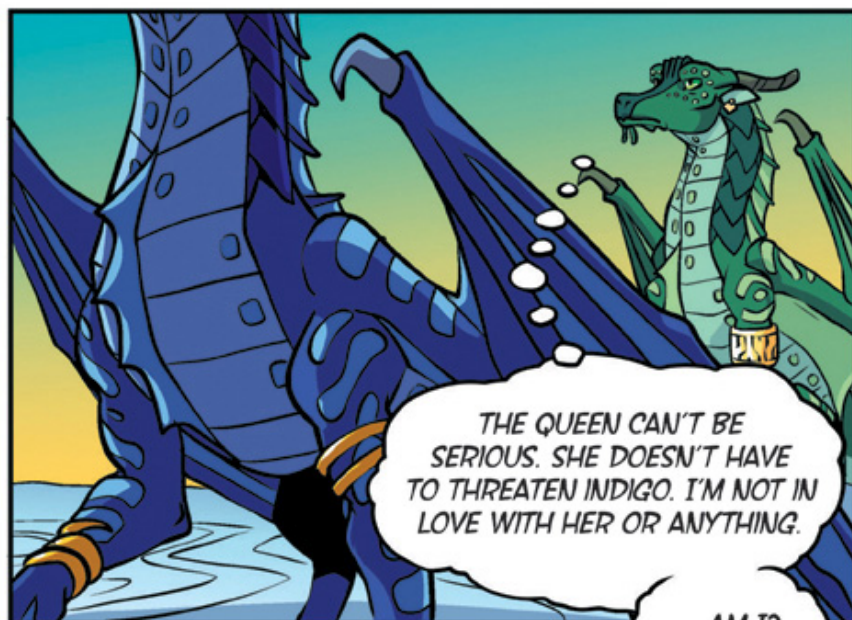


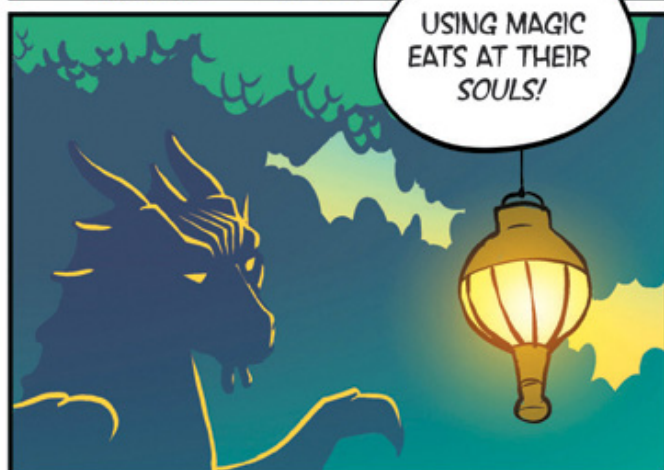


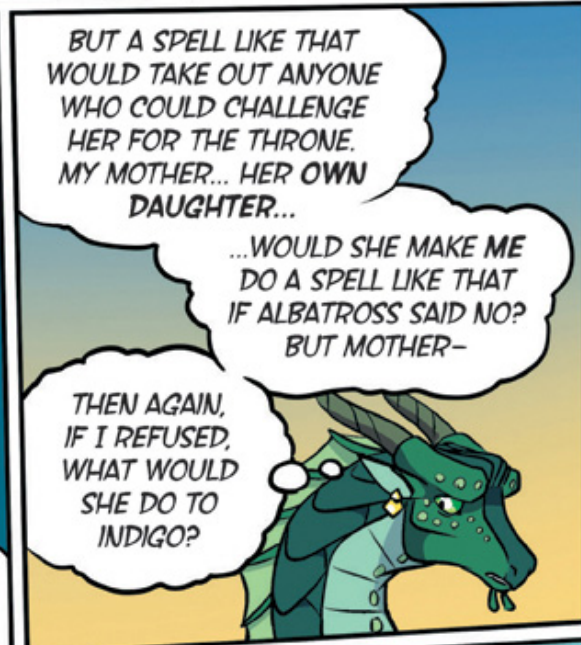














CLEAR SIGHT

THE DAY BEFORE STARTING SCHOOL, CLEAR SIGHT COULDN'T SLEEP. SHE WAS GOING TO MEET HIM TONIGHT. DARKSTALKER. HOW COULD SHE BE SO EXCITED AND SO TERRIFIED AT THE SAME TIME?

DARKSTALKER MUST KNOW MY FACE AS CLEARLY AS I KNOW HIS.

HE'LL BE WAITING FOR ME OUTSIDE WHEN SCHOOL STARTS. HE'LL WANT TO MEET AS SOON AS I LAND.

HE WON'T EXPECT ME TO BE EARLY, THOUGH. MY FORESIGHT'S STRONGER THAN HIS.

I'VE SPENT SO LONG THINKING ABOUT WHAT'S TO COME, BUT THIS IS NOW. ACTUALLY NOW.

THIS IS WHEN WE SHAPE THE FUTURE.

NO SIGN OF DARKSTALKER YET...

NO ONE IS EVEN LOOKING AT ME.

OH-RIGHT. THEY DON'T KNOW WHO I AM YET. OR WHAT I CAN DO.







THE TRAGEDY
IN THE KINGDOM
OF THE SEA... IT'S
HAPPENING RIGHT
NOW.



OH NO. THIS
SEAWING-FATHOM.
HIS POOR, SAD
FUTURES. IF HE
EVEN SURVIVES
THE NIGHT.



THIS TRAGEDY
IS A WORLD AWAY,
BUT IT'S CHANGING
MY FUTURE.



IT'S CHANGING
EVERYTHING. NOW
AND NOW AND
FORWARD AND
FORWARD.



THIS IS WHY I
NEED TRAINING.
NOT TO OUTWIT
DARKSTALKER-BUT
TO HELP DRAGONS
WHO NEED ME.



IF I CAN'T
CONVINCE THE
DRAGONS IN POWER
TO LISTEN TO ME,
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE
TO SAVE THEM.

CLEAR SIGHT swooped down into the tower of knowledge, dropping dizzily into a classroom full of light and mirrors. Four dragons jumped, blinking at her in surprise. Three were students, older than she was—perhaps five or six years old. The fourth was the teacher, large and scowling, eyes narrowing at the intruder.



H-HELLO.
I'M SORRY—
I'M LOOKING FOR
SEER TRAINING—
I'M—

DON'T BOTHER TO
INTRODUCE YOURSELF!
OUR TEACHER
ALREADY KNOWS WHO
YOU ARE. SHE'S THE
QUEEN'S OWN SEER!

YOU CLAIM TO BE A SEER?
HOW OLD ARE YOU—THREE?
WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN?

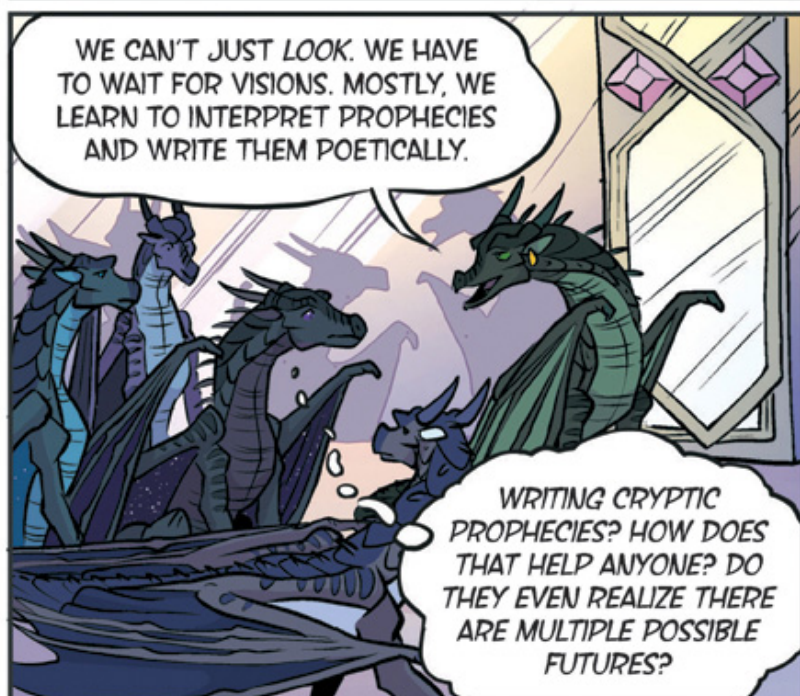
I—I'VE SEEN LOTS
OF THINGS.

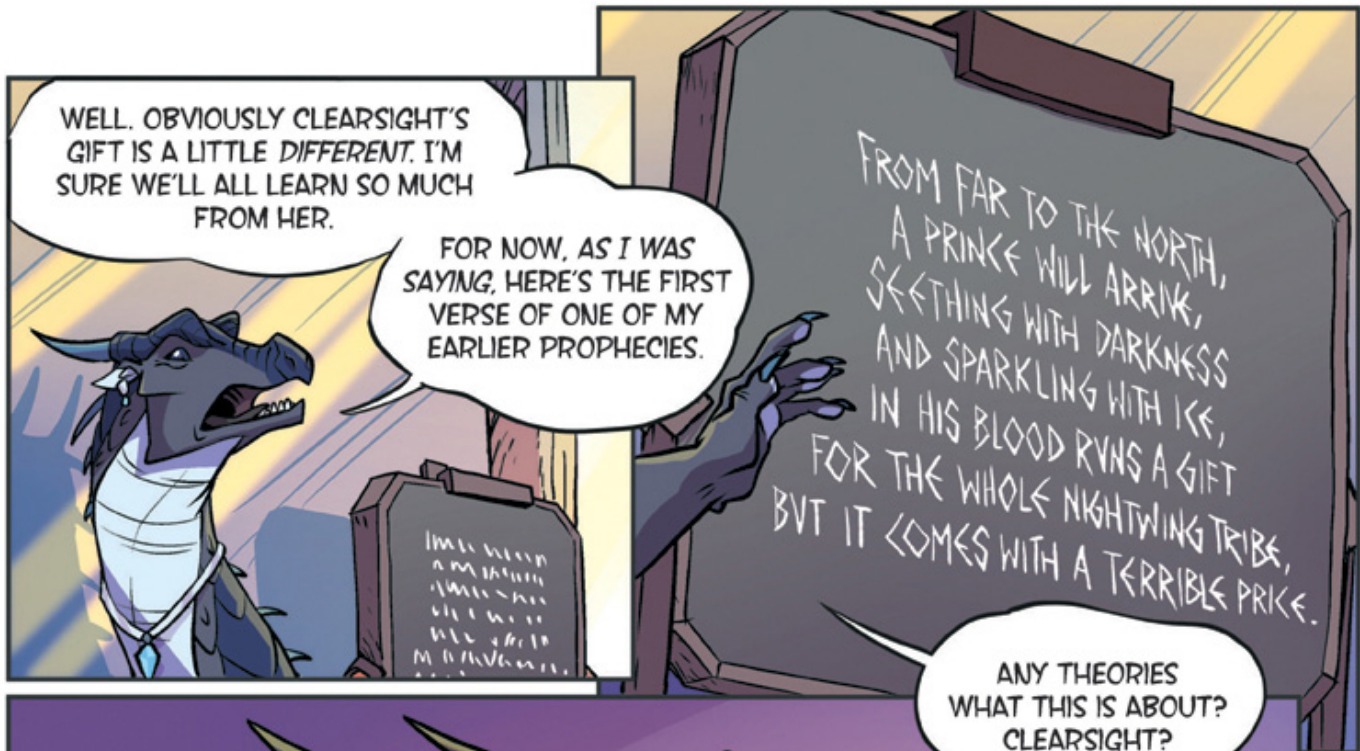
WE DON'T TOLERATE PLAY-ACTING.
FINDING US WAS A LUCKY GUESS.
COME BACK WHEN YOU'VE SEEN MORE
THAN MOMMY WILL BE MAD I
DIDN'T EAT DINNER.

I CAN PROVE MY VISIONS
ARE REAL! I KNOW YOU'RE
ALLKNOWING, THE QUEEN'S
SEER. YOU THREE ARE JEWEL-
EYES, MORROWWATCHER,
AND VISION.

I KNOW A HUGE STORM
IS COMING AND CLASS WILL
BE CANCELED FOR A WEEK.
I KNOW THE QUEEN'S PLANNING
TO EVALUATE HER POTENTIAL
SEERS SOON AND SHE WON'T
BE PLEASED. HOW'S THAT FOR
KNOWING THINGS?









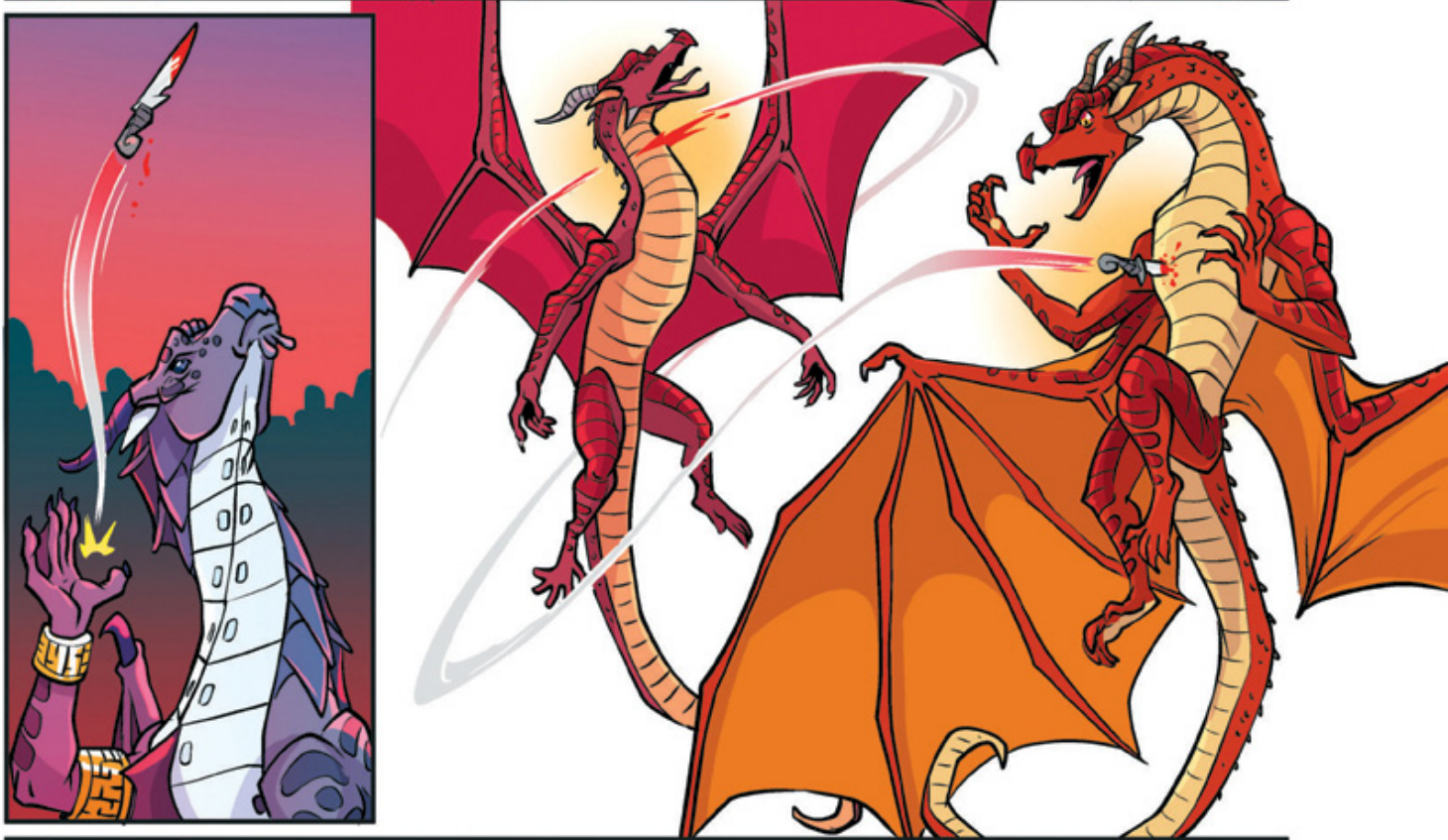
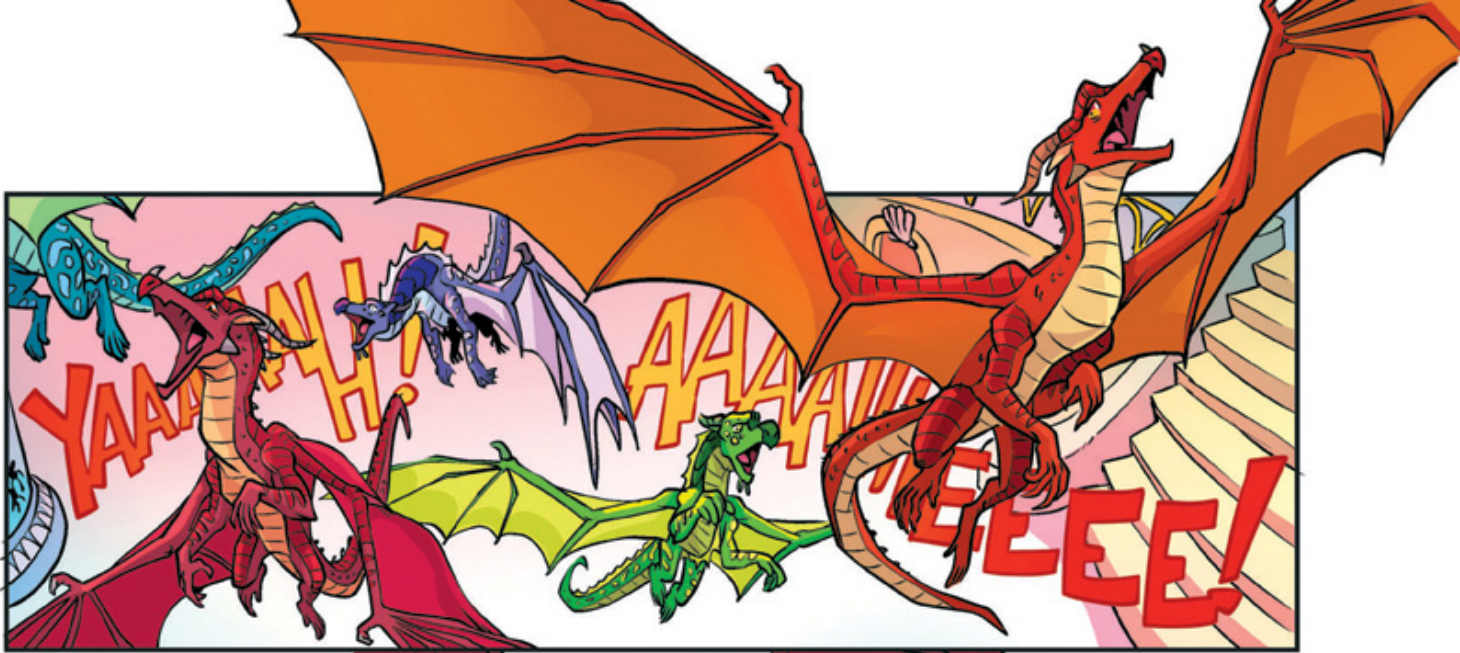
DID HE SLIP?
DID SOMEONE
THROW THAT
KNIFE BY
ACCIDENT?

RUN!
SWIM!

WHY ISN'T
THE QUEEN
GETTING UP?

ALBATROSS
CAN FIX THE
QUEEN, HE FIXES
EVERYTHING!

FLY!
FIGHT!





MOTHER! WHY
ISN'T SHE RUNNING
AWAY?

COME ON.

HE ISN'T
FINISHED! HE'S
GOING TO KEEP
KILLING!

COME ON!

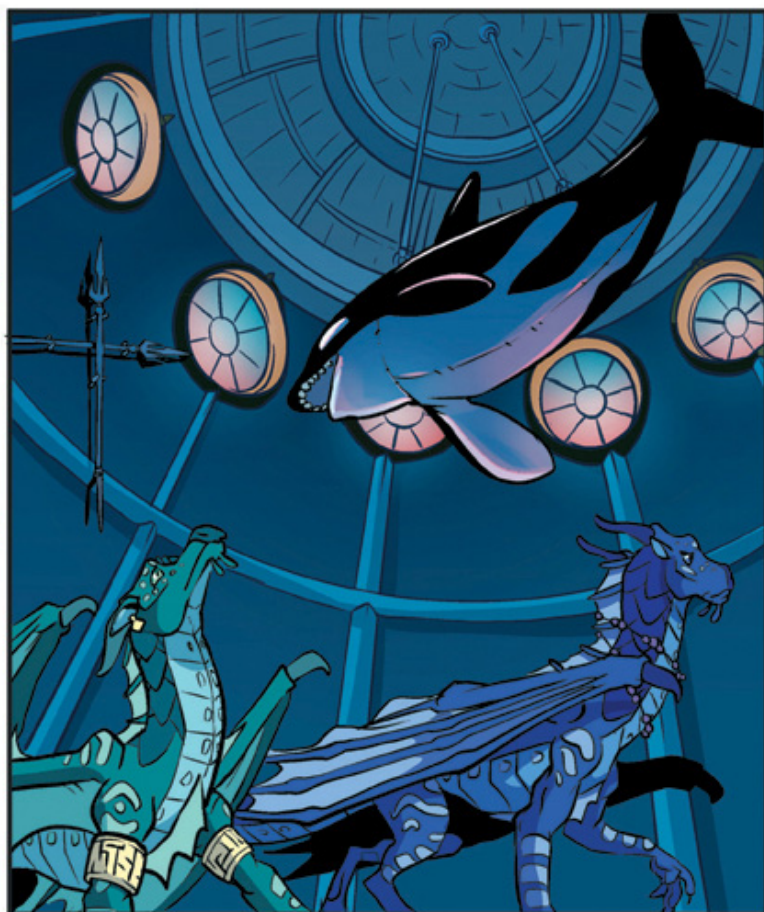
DO YOU THINK HE'D
REALLY HURT ME? WE'RE
PARTNERS. HE'S MY
GRANDFATHER.

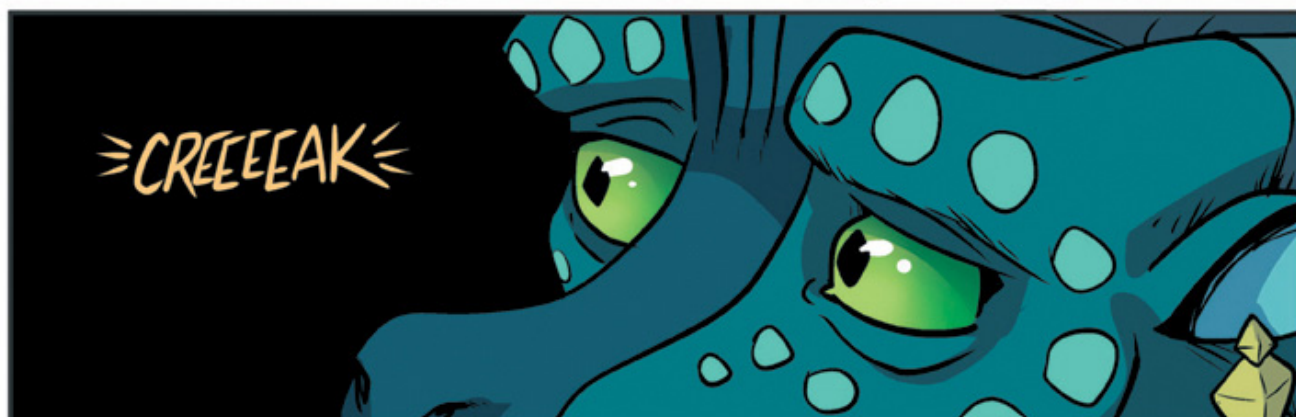
HE HAD NO PROBLEM
KILLING HIS SISTER.

AND YOU'RE THE
ONLY ONE HE HAS
ANY REASON TO BE
AFRAID OF.



GRANDFATHER CAN SEND A KNIFE
AFTER ME NO MATTER WHERE I AM.
I MAY ALREADY BE DEAD.







I'M ABOUT
TO DIE.

PLEASE DON'T
LET HIM KILL
INDIGO, TOO.



GRANDSON.

HIDING LIKE A NERVOUS
HERMIT CRAB. I SHOULD
HAVE EXPECTED THAT FROM
A DRAGONET WITH SUCH A
LIMITED IMAGINATION.



YOU MAY BE WONDERING
WHY YOU'RE STILL ALIVE
WHEN YOUR ENTIRE
FAMILY IS DEAD.

NO. THEY
CAN'T BE.

NO.



YOU KNOW I COULD
EASILY KILL YOU
FROM A DISTANCE.

BUT YOU'VE BEEN
SUCH A THORN IN
MY SIDE THE LAST
FEW YEARS...

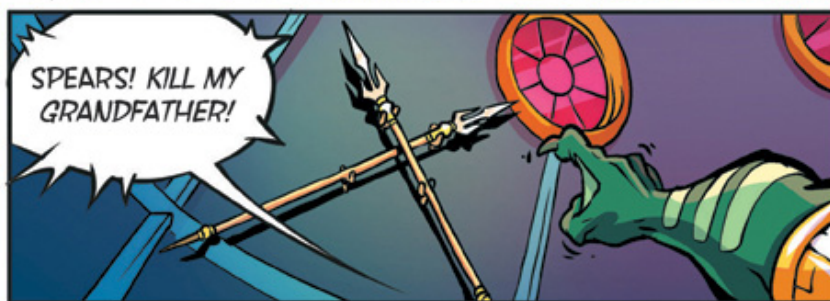
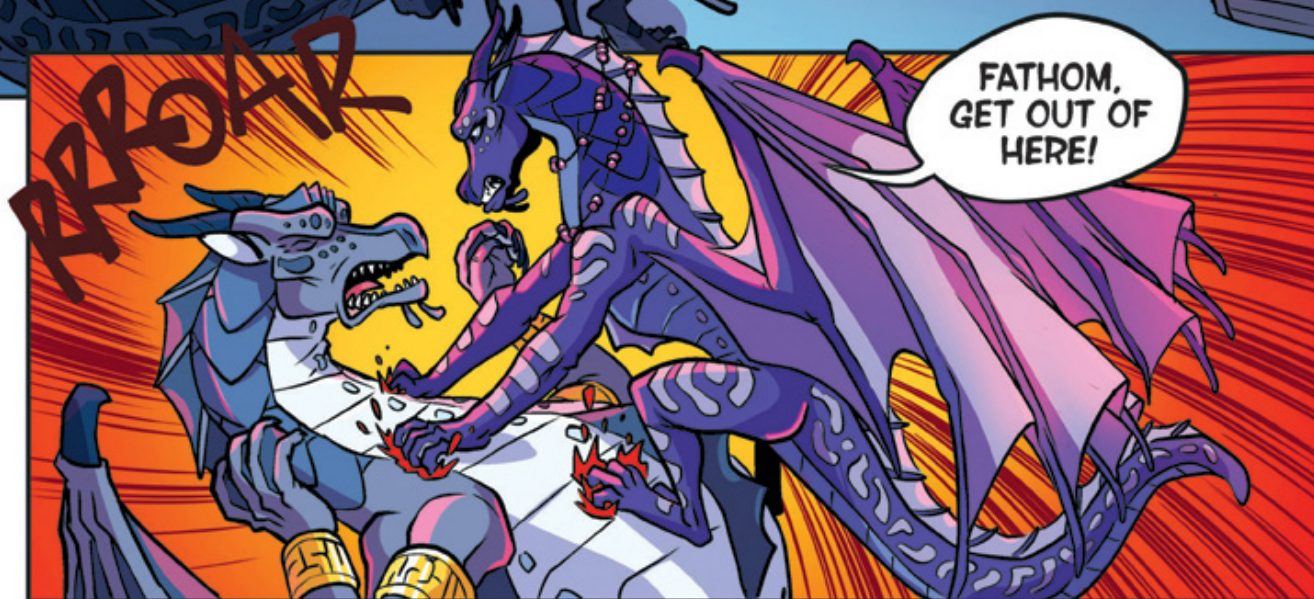


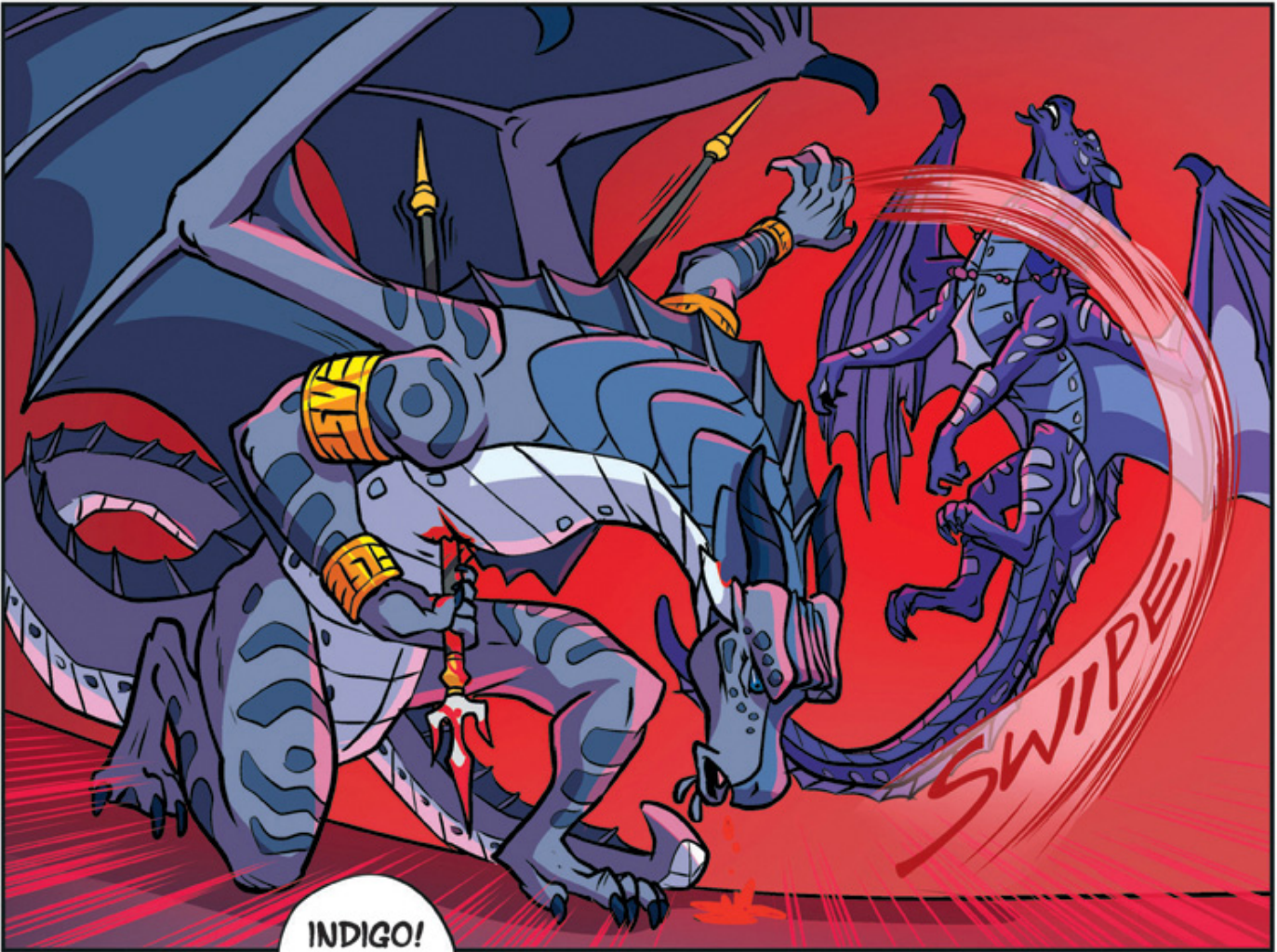
EVERY TIME
LAGOON GOT A
CHANCE—

"YOU'RE EXPENDABLE
NOW, MY PATHETIC
LITTLE BROTHER. MAYBE
FATHOM WILL BE BETTER
AT THIS THAN YOU ARE."



I WANT TO
SEE YOUR FACE
AS YOU DIE.







CLEAR SIGHT

CLEAR SIGHT WAS RELIEVED WHEN ALLKNOWING FINALLY RELEASED THEM AND SHE WAS ABLE TO FIND HER WAY TO HER NORMAL CLASS IN ROOM 3A. HER ANXIETY BEGAN TO FADE AS ONE OF HER NEW CLASSMATES, LISTENER, SHOWED HER AROUND THE CLASSROOM.

THESE ARE THE SCAVENGERS OUR CLASS IS STUDYING THIS YEAR. THEY'RE ADORABLE, OBVIOUSLY, BUT ALSO PRETTY FASCINATING.

THEY DON'T LOOK FASCINATING. THEY LOOK ASLEEP. I WONDER WHAT THEY EAT.

A LOT OF FRUIT. NUTS, SEEDS. SOMETIMES BITS OF MEAT IF WE ROAST IT FOR THEM.



OH NO. THE SILVER SCALES BY HER EYES—SHE'S A MIND READER.



I'M SORRY. I'M JUST NOT USED TO MIND READERS! WHAT IF I THINK HORRIBLE, CRAZY STUFF?

OH, I ALREADY KNOW YOU'RE CRAZY. WHEN YOU WALKED IN, YOU SORTED EVERYONE INTO "SAFE TO BE FRIENDS WITH" AND "DOOMED IF I TALK TO THEM."



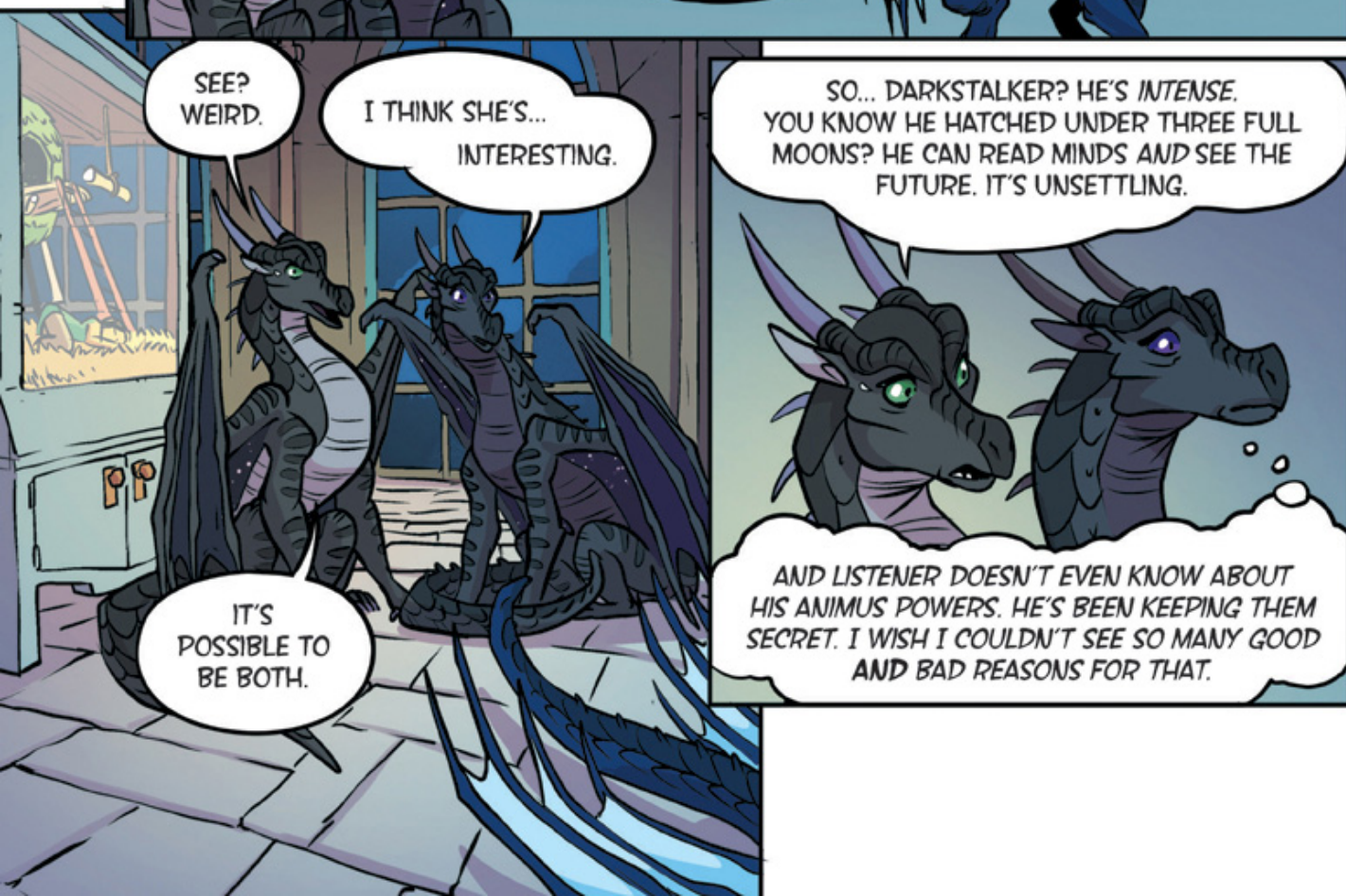
JUST CHECKING—I'M NOT IN THE DOOMED CAMP, AM I?

NOT AS FAR AS I CAN SEE.



ACTUALLY, THE FUTURES INCLUDING LISTENER HAVE MORE WARMTH AND LAUGHTER. BEING FRIENDS WITH HER WOULD DEFINITELY BE A TURN TOWARD THE RIGHT FUTURE.





CLEARSTIGHT DID HER BEST TO ACT NORMAL DURING THE LESSON, BUT AS THE SCHOOL NIGHT WORE ON, SHE FOUND IT HARDER AND HARDER TO BREATHE THROUGH THE POUNDING OF HER HEART. SHE'D MEET DARKSTALKER SOON, DURING OUTDOOR TIME, WHEN THE MOONS WERE HIGH. SHE COULDN'T PUT IT OFF ANY LONGER. BUT AT LEAST SHE COULD DO IT ON HER TERMS.

WHERE IS DARKSTALKER?

MAYBE HE'S ANGRY THAT I AVOIDED HIM THIS MORNING. MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT TO MEET ME AFTER ALL.

THERE'S A FUTURE WHERE THAT HAPPENS. IT'S... NOT A GOOD ONE.



HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

CAN'T YOU USE THOSE WEIRD EYES OF YOURS? OR ARE ICEWINGS BLIND AS WELL AS ARROGANT AND VICIOUS?





THAT WAS A LITTLE RUDE, DON'T YOU THINK?

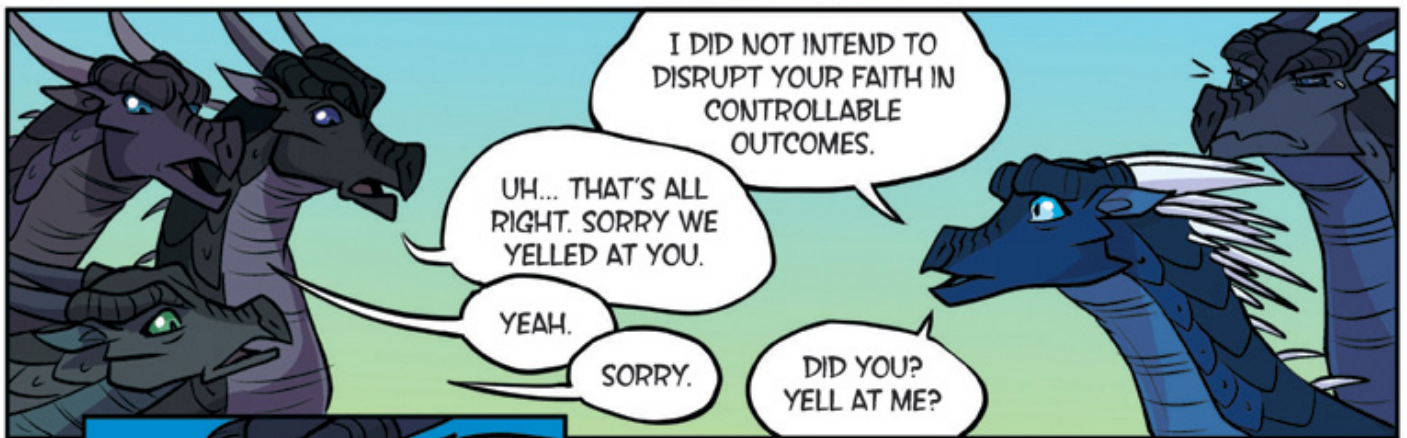
SHE RUINED OUR GAME!

WHAT A DISASTER. NO WONDER YOU HAD TO RESORT TO NAME-CALLING AND BIGOTRY.



WHITEOUT, THESE DRAGONS ARE UPSET BECAUSE YOU KNOCKED OVER THEIR MARBLES.

OH. I THOUGHT THE MARBLES REPRESENTED CHAOS THEORY AND I WAS JUST ANOTHER UNPREDICTABLE WHIM OF THE UNIVERSE.



I DID NOT INTEND TO DISRUPT YOUR FAITH IN CONTROLLABLE OUTCOMES.

UH... THAT'S ALL RIGHT. SORRY WE YELLED AT YOU.

YEAH.

SORRY.

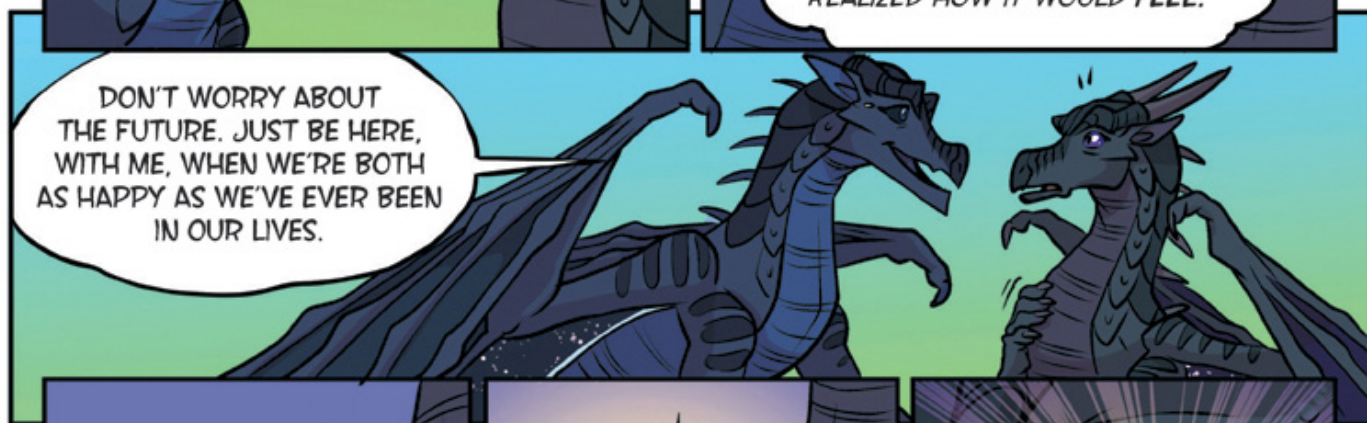
DID YOU? YELL AT ME?



DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

SHE WAS CHEATING ANYWAY. ALL HE CAN THINK ABOUT IS HIS CRUSH ON HER SISTER. AND HE IS THOROUGHLY SICK OF THEM BOTH.

HAVE FUN WITH YOUR MARBLES, FRIENDS.







ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?



YOU DIDN'T SEE
ALL THAT?

I WILL NEVER
INVADE YOUR
THOUGHTS. I PROMISE.
I WILL STAY OUT OF
YOUR MIND, ALWAYS.

HE KEEPS THAT
PROMISE... IN
SOME FUTURES.

THANK YOU.



OUR FUTURE'S NOT
THAT BAD, IS IT? I'VE SEEN
MOSTLY GOOD THINGS.

NO, IT'S GREAT,
DEPENDING ON HOW
MUCH YOU LIKE THE
AVERAGE APOCALYPSE.

WELL, HE'S
DEFINITELY STAYING
OUT OF MY MIND FOR
NOW. BECAUSE I
WASN'T JOKING.



I'M DARKSTALKER,
BY THE WAY.

OH, I'M TAILBITE.
YOU WEREN'T
EXPECTING
SOMEONE ELSE,
WERE YOU?



I WANT TO WRAP MY WINGS
AROUND HIM FOREVER. AND I KINDA
WANT TO SET HIM ON FIRE. I WANT TO
FLY AWAY, AND I WANT TO KEEP HAVING
THIS CONVERSATION FOR ETERNITY.

IT'S HAPPENING RIGHT
NOW. THE BEGINNING OF
EVERYTHING.

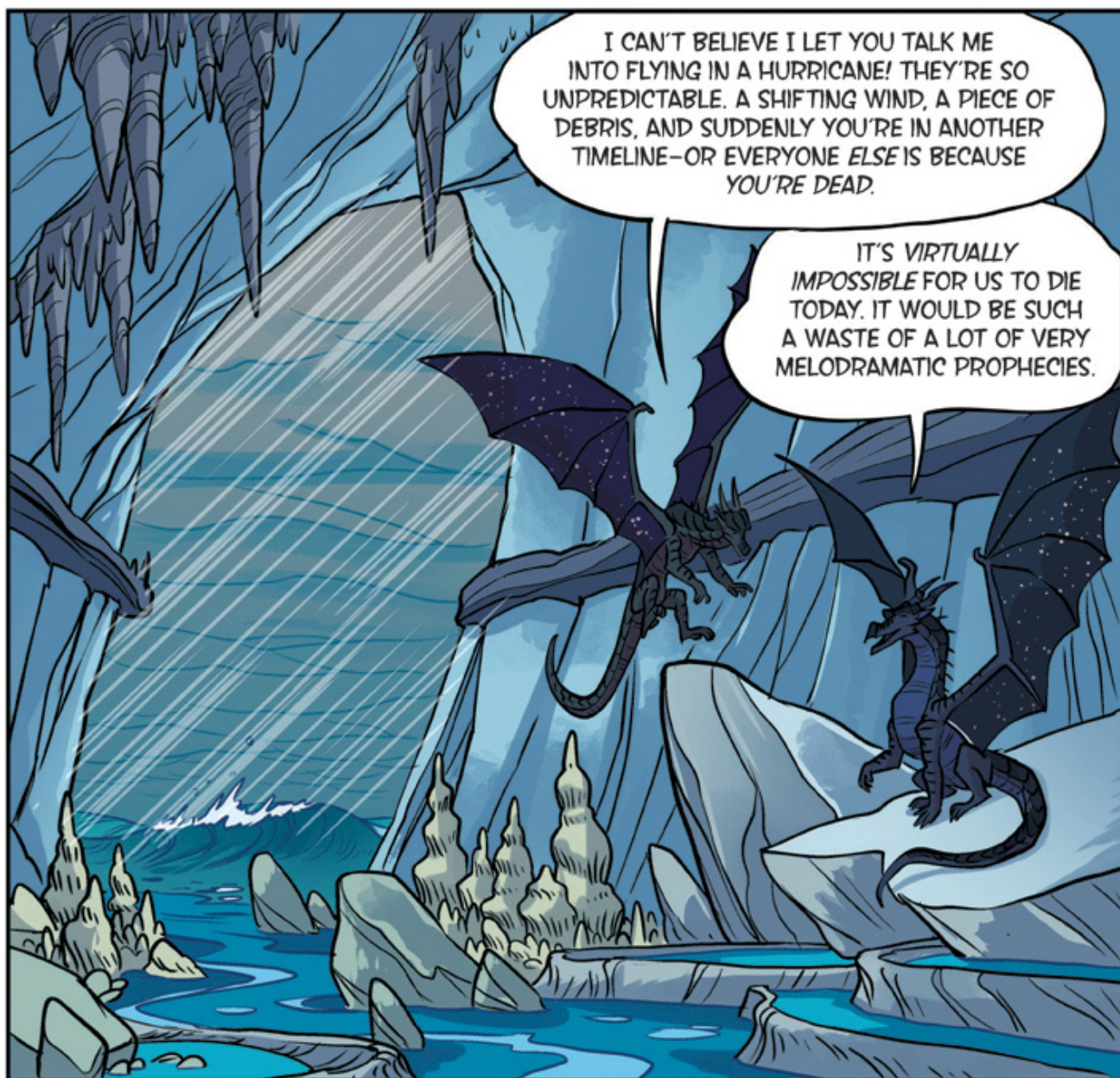
DARKSTALKER

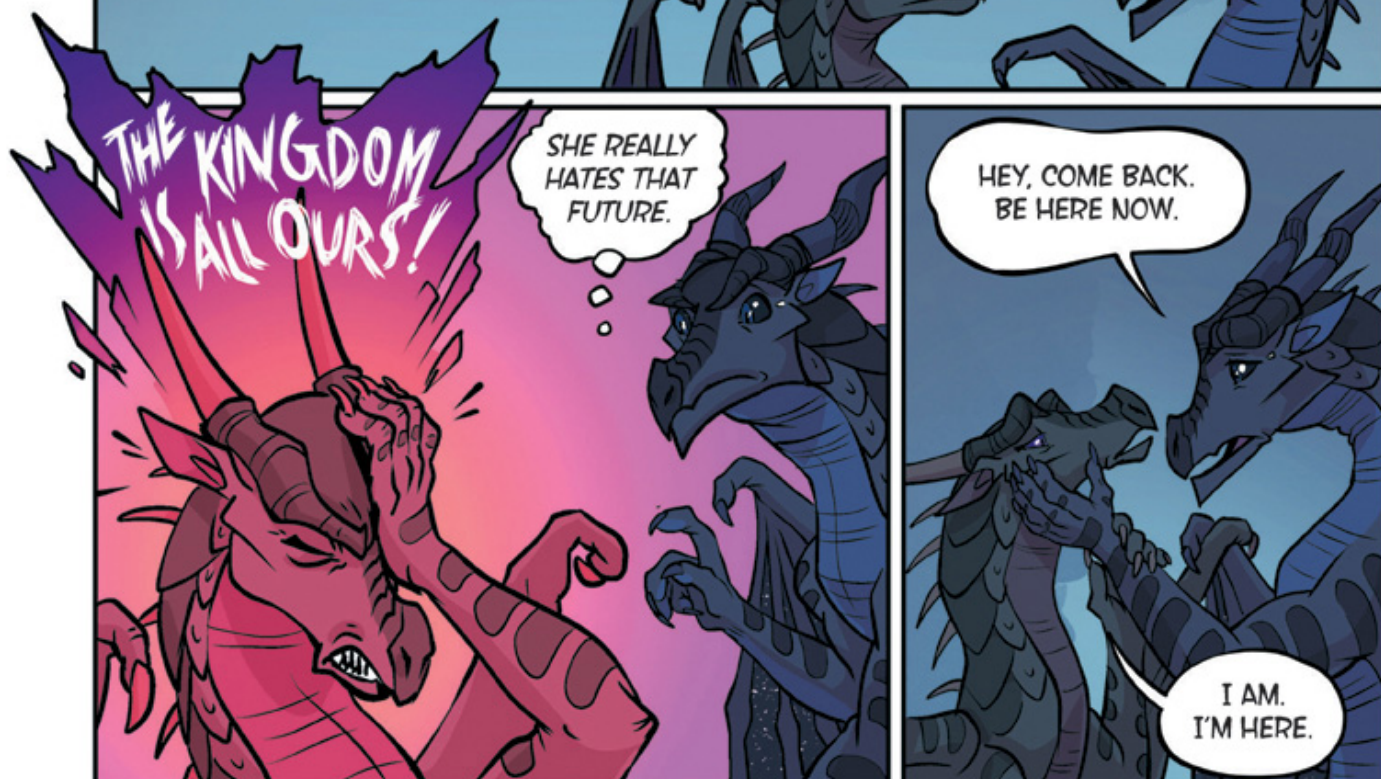
DARKSTALKER HAD BEEN WAITING FOR A DAY LIKE THIS—WIND SO FIERCE IT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SENT BY VENGEFUL ICEWINGS, A DAY WHEN HE AND CLEARSIGHT COULD BE ALONE TOGETHER BY THE SEA. CLEARSIGHT WAS THE ONE HAPPY THING IN HIS LIFE. SHE KNEW HIM BETTER THAN ANY DRAGON IN THE WORLD.

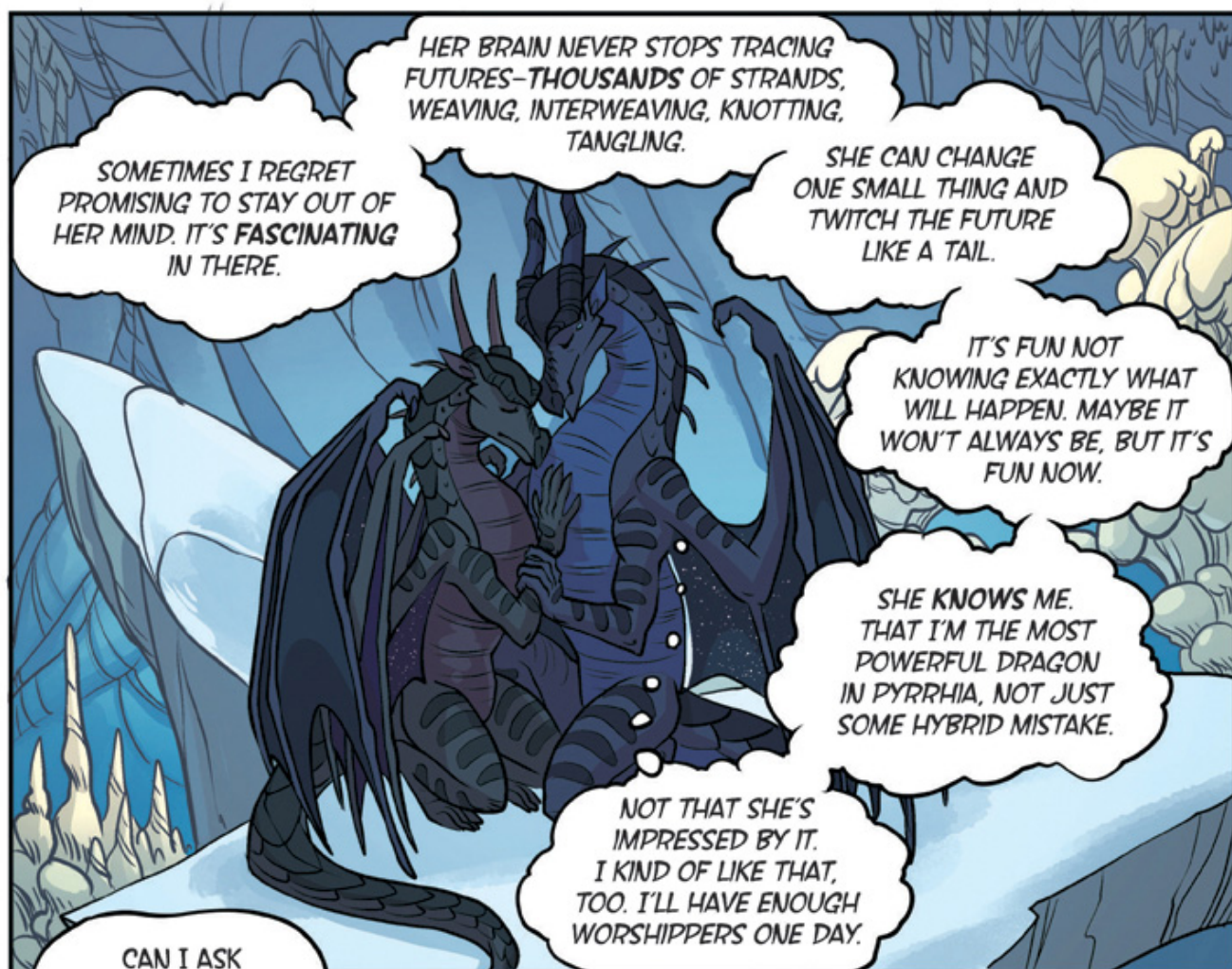
LOOKS FUN DOWN THERE! THOSE WAVES ARE TALLER THAN US!

I KNOW SOMEWHERE WE CAN GO. FOLLOW ME!

ALL RIGHT, YES. THIS ISN'T QUITE WHAT I WAS PICTURING.







HER BRAIN NEVER STOPS TRACING FUTURES—THOUSANDS OF STRANDS, WEAVING, INTERWEAVING, KNOTTING, TANGLING.

SOMETIMES I REGRET PROMISING TO STAY OUT OF HER MIND. IT'S FASCINATING IN THERE.

SHE CAN CHANGE ONE SMALL THING AND TWITCH THE FUTURE LIKE A TAIL.

IT'S FUN NOT KNOWING EXACTLY WHAT WILL HAPPEN. MAYBE IT WON'T ALWAYS BE, BUT IT'S FUN NOW.

SHE KNOWS ME. THAT I'M THE MOST POWERFUL DRAGON IN PYRRHIA, NOT JUST SOME HYBRID MISTAKE.

NOT THAT SHE'S IMPRESSED BY IT. I KIND OF LIKE THAT, TOO. I'LL HAVE ENOUGH WORSHIPPERS ONE DAY.

CAN I ASK SOMETHING NOSY? IT MIGHT BE RUDE.

YOU CAN ASK ME ANYTHING.

IT'S JUST... YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE A HYBRID.

OH. THAT QUESTION. MY FATHER ASKS ME THAT EVERY DAY, BUT MUCH LESS POLITELY.



SEE THE WHITE SCALES?

IRONICALLY, THESE ARE A LOT EASIER TO HIDE FROM OTHER DRAGONS THAN THE IDENTITY OF MY FATHER.



WHOA. THE ICE SCALES EVEN RADIATE COLD.



...AND I INHERITED HIS ANIMUS POWERS, TOO. YOU MUST HAVE SEEN THAT IN YOUR VISIONS.

NO ONE ELSE KNOWS.



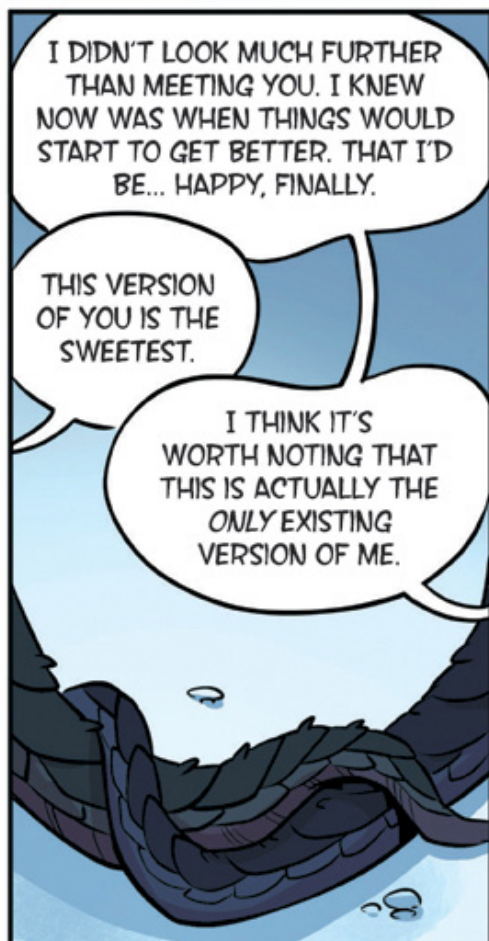
NO ONE? DIDN'T YOUR FATHER TEST YOU?

YES, BUT I DELIBERATELY FAILED. I DIDN'T WANT HIM GETTING IDEAS WHILE I WAS TOO YOUNG TO DEFEND MYSELF.



HE LECTURES US ABOUT IT CONSTANTLY ANYWAY. HOW CAREFUL WE MUST BE WITH MAGIC, OR AWFUL, TERRIBLE THINGS WILL HAPPEN—

BUT HE'S RIGHT. I'VE SEEN THOSE AWFUL, TERRIBLE THINGS. HAVEN'T YOU?



I DIDN'T LOOK MUCH FURTHER THAN MEETING YOU. I KNEW NOW WAS WHEN THINGS WOULD START TO GET BETTER. THAT I'D BE... HAPPY, FINALLY.

THIS VERSION OF YOU IS THE SWEETEST.

I THINK IT'S WORTH NOTING THAT THIS IS ACTUALLY THE ONLY EXISTING VERSION OF ME.



IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THOSE FUTURES—WHERE YOU USE TOO MUCH MAGIC... KILL, STEAL THE THRONE, BECOME KING—THEY MUST BE UNLIKELY, RIGHT?

MAYBE I HAVE GLIMPSED A FUTURE LIKE THAT... BUT I'D BE A **GREAT KING**. WE'D BE THE STRONGEST TRIBE. WE'D BE **SAFE**. THE PATH THERE MIGHT BE A LITTLE DARK, BUT... IT'D BE WORTH IT.

IT'S NOT THE MOST LIKELY FUTURE. BUT MAYBE IT **SHOULD BE**.

DON'T SAY THAT TO HER.





NIGHTWINGS...

DON'T GET UP.
JUST REST.



ARE YOU HURT?
THERE'S A GASH ON
YOUR SIDE, BUT IT
DOESN'T SEEM THAT
BAD...

IT'S SOMETHING
ELSE. HE'S EXHAUSTED.
HE'S BEEN SWIMMING
FOR DAYS.



CAN YOU
TELL US WHAT
HAPPENED?

ALBATROSS.

YOU WERE
ATTACKED BY AN...
ALBATROSS?

ALBATROSS IS
QUEEN LAGOON'S
BROTHER. AN
ANIMUS.



OH. OH NO...

ALBATROSS
WENT MAD... HE KILLED...
EVERYONE... MY BROTHER,
MY FATHER... THE SKYWINGS...
THE PRINCESS...

I BARELY ESCAPED...
SWAM AND KEPT
SWIMMING... SWIMMING
FOR WEEKS...

I DON'T KNOW
IF ANYONE ELSE IS
STILL ALIVE...

EVERYONE? BUT FATHOM! HE CAN'T BE—
NO, I CAN STILL SEE THE TIMELINES. HE'S NOT
DEAD. HE CAN'T BE.

FATHOM? THE TIMID, JITTERY GREEN DRAGON
WHO'S OUR FRIEND IN THE FUTURE? HE'S NOT
WORTH BEING THIS WORRIED ABOUT, IS HE?

ALBATROSS WAS STILL
KILLING WHEN I FLED
INTO THE OCEAN.

WHY WOULD HE
DO THIS? HE WAS
OUR PRINCE. WE
LOVED HIM. WHY?

I THINK I KNOW.
HE WASN'T CAREFUL
WITH HIS SOUL.

CLEARSTIGHT—

AREN'T YOU
AFRAID? I'VE
SEEN—

CLEARSTIGHT, PLEASE
LISTEN TO ME, NOT
WHOEVER'S IN YOUR
VISIONS. I AM CAREFUL
WITH MY SOUL.

IF THERE'S ANY
ANIMUS YOU SHOULD
BE WORRIED ABOUT,
IT'S MY FATHER.



JUST REST. QUEEN VIGILANCE WILL WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. SHE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.

COULD ARCTIC LOSE HIS MIND THE WAY ALBATROSS DID? THOSE ROTTEN PATCHES INSIDE MY FATHER—THOSE CAME FROM USING HIS MAGIC, DIDN'T THEY?



I KNOW THAT ARCTIC DID SOMETHING WITH HIS ANIMUS POWER TO ESCAPE THE ICE KINGDOM.

HOW MANY TIMES HAS ARCTIC USED IT? HOW MUCH OF HIS SOUL DOES HE HAVE LEFT TO LOSE?



I'M NOT THE DANGEROUS ONE, ARCTIC IS.

BUT HOW CAN I CONVINCE CLEARSIGHT? I NEED A WAY TO MAKE HER BELIEVE IN ME. TO SEE THAT I'M NOTHING LIKE MY FATHER.



I AM DIFFERENT.

I'M SMARTER THAN ARCTIC AND ALL THE OTHER ANIMUS DRAGONS. AND I CAN PROVE IT.

I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

FATHOM

THE KINGDOM OF THE SEA WAS IN SHOCK. ALMOST ALL THE ROYAL FAMILY WAS DEAD. PEARL WAS ONLY FIVE YEARS OLD, BUT SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT TO RULE THE KINGDOM. ON HER FIRST DAY AS QUEEN, SHE ISSUED AN EDICT: HENCEFORTH, ANIMUS MAGIC WOULD BE FORBIDDEN IN THE KINGDOM OF THE SEA. FATHOM STOOD BESIDE HER IN THE THRONE ROOM AS SHE SIGNED THE PROCLAMATION, AND HE THOUGHT PERHAPS HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO NOTICED HOW WOBBLY HER HANDWRITING WAS.

SHE'S SO COLD NOW. SHE CAN BARELY LOOK AT ME. HARDLY ANYONE CAN, EXCEPT INDIGO.

IT HURTS MOST WITH PEARL. SHE'S MY SISTER.

I CAN'T BLAME HER. SHE HAD TO WATCH EVERYONE DIE. SHE SAW GRANDFATHER KILL MOTHER WHILE SHE PLEADED FOR MY LIFE. AND THEN SAW HIM KILL OUR FATHER SECONDS LATER.

EVEN IF SHE HATES ME, I'M THANKFUL SHE SURVIVED.

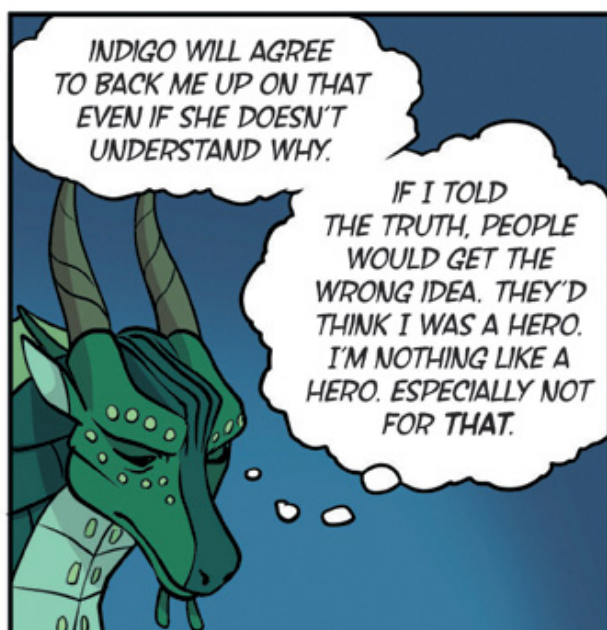
EVERYONE ELSE IS GONE. NOT EVEN MY MAGIC CAN BRING THEM BACK.

IT'S DONE. EVERYBODY BUT MY BROTHER CAN LEAVE.

HOW DID YOU KILL HIM?

IT WAS INDIGO. SHE GOT HIM WITH A SPEAR. SHE SAVED ME... US.

SOME OF US.



INDIGO WILL AGREE TO BACK ME UP ON THAT EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY.

IF I TOLD THE TRUTH, PEOPLE WOULD GET THE WRONG IDEA. THEY'D THINK I WAS A HERO. I'M NOTHING LIKE A HERO. ESPECIALLY NOT FOR THAT.



I KNOW THE EDICT IS ABOUT ME. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY. I'M NOT LIKE HIM.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO TRUST YOU, FATHOM? WON'T YOU ALWAYS BE TEMPTED TO USE YOUR MAGIC? WHAT COULD STOP YOU?



QUEEN PEARL OF THE SEAWINGS, I PLEDGE YOU THIS OATH, ON MY LIFE AND SEALED WITH MY BLOOD: I WILL NEVER USE MY ANIMUS MAGIC AGAIN.

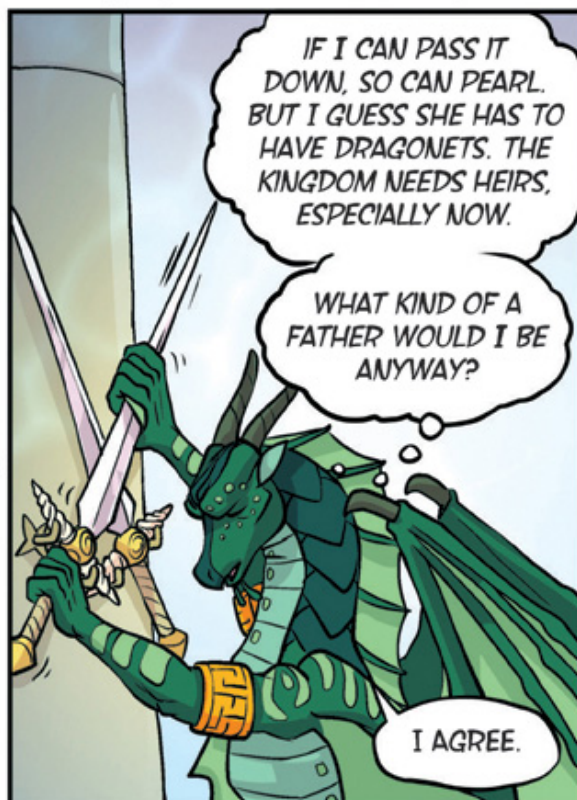


ALL RIGHT. I ACCEPT YOUR OATH. BUT THERE'S ONE OTHER THING.

ANYTHING.



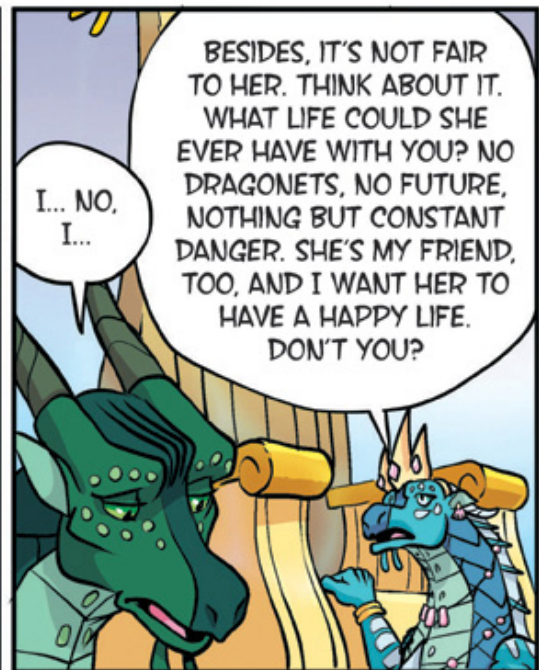
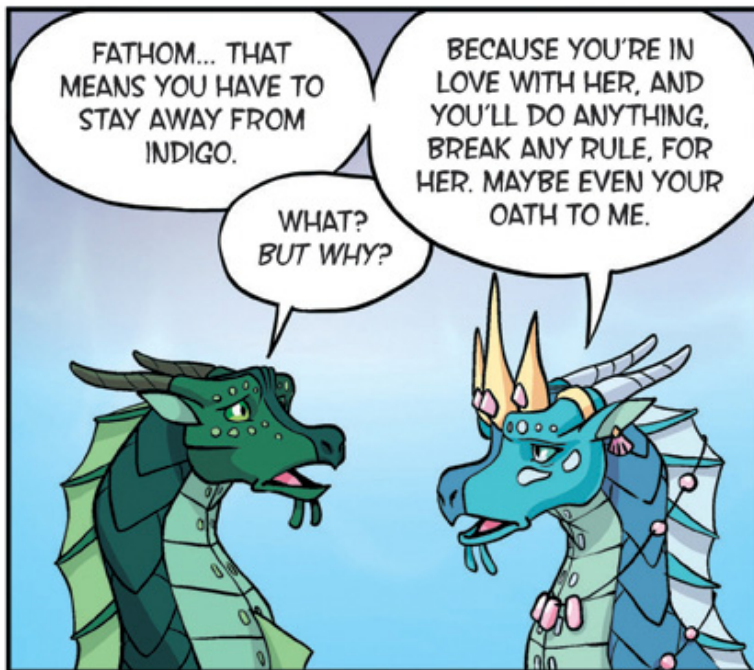
YOU CAN NEVER HAVE DRAGONETS. IF THIS POWER RUNS IN YOUR VEINS, YOU COULD PASS IT DOWN. IF IT DIES WITH YOU, ALL OF PYRRHIA WILL BE SAFER.



IF I CAN PASS IT DOWN, SO CAN PEARL. BUT I GUESS SHE HAS TO HAVE DRAGONETS. THE KINGDOM NEEDS HEIRS, ESPECIALLY NOW.

WHAT KIND OF A FATHER WOULD I BE ANYWAY?

I AGREE.



CLEAR SIGHT

LISTENER DIDN'T LIKE DARKSTALKER AND SHE DIDN'T BOTHER TO HIDE IT. ON THE OTHER HAND, CLEAR SIGHT DIDN'T LIKE MOST OF THE DRAGONS HER FRIEND GOT OBSESSED WITH—AND SHE DIDN'T BOTHER TO HIDE THAT EITHER.

SO THAT'S THE NEW DRAGON YOU'RE STALKING?

OOO, I HATE HIM ALREADY. TOO MANY FUTURES WHERE HE CHEATS ON LISTENER, THEN DUMPS HER.

DON'T TELL ME ANYTHING! WE'RE TOTALLY DESTINED FOR EACH OTHER SO DON'T YOU DARE TELL ME WE'RE NOT.

AND DON'T MAKE ANY FACES EITHER. I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY FACES.

BUT—WHAT IF—

NO! I WANT TO LIVE MY LIFE LIKE A NORMAL DRAGON! LA LA LA LA LA!

SIGH

LOOK, HERE COMES YOUR STALKER.

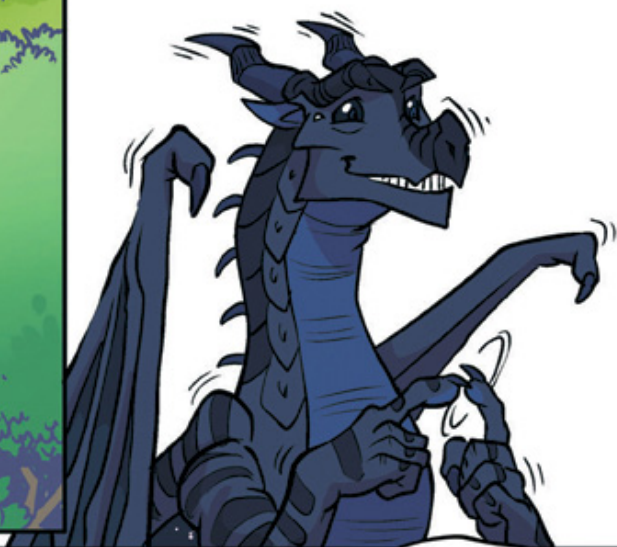
DON'T BE MEAN.

I'M JUST SAYING. IT'S WEIRD DARKSTALKER CAN SHIELD HIS MIND. NOBODY ELSE LEARNS THAT UNTIL THEY'RE SEVEN.

YOU SHOULD PROBABLY STAY OUT OF HIS HEAD IF HE DOESN'T WANT YOU THERE. HE STAYS OUT OF MINE.

NO, HE SAYS HE STAYS OUT OF YOURS. YOU HAVE NO WAY TO KNOW IF HE DOES.

WELL, THAT'S TRUE. I SHOULD TELL HER I TRUST HIM. BUT DO I?



ON THE SURFACE, DARKSTALKER'S ROOM DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A PLACE FULL OF SECRETS. A SLEEPING CORNER, A DESK WITH THREE INKWELLS, A RACK WITH THE KIND OF SCROLLS EVERY YOUNG NIGHTWING OWNS: *GEOGRAPHY OF PYRRHIA*; *TEN LITTLE SCAVENGERS (RECIPES INCLUDED!)*; *GOODNIGHT, MOONS*. DARKSTALKER WENT STRAIGHT TO THE RACK AND SLID IT ASIDE, SLOWLY PULLING OUT ONE OF THE WALL STONES TO REVEAL A HIDDEN HOLE.



I KEEP THINGS IN
HERE I DON'T WANT
FATHER TO SEE.

CAN YOU SENSE IT?
CAN YOU GUESS
WHAT IT IS?

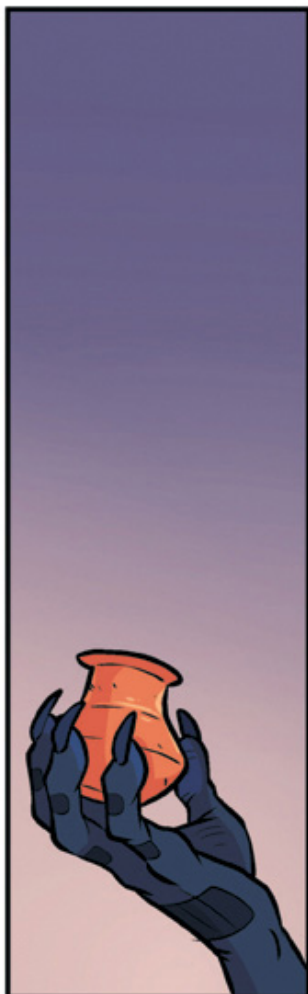


A BLANK SCROLL...
HMMM. YOU'VE DECIDED
TO BECOME A WRITER?

I PUT ALL MY POWER
INTO IT. NOW IT'S LIKE I'M
NOT AN ANIMUS AT ALL.
MY SOUL IS SAFE.



ALL-
ALL YOUR
POWER?





I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU
REALLY DID
THIS!

I GUESS
THAT MEANS
IT WORKED!

I KNEW THIS
WAS POSSIBLE, BUT
I NEVER EXPECTED
DARKSTALKER TO
DO IT.

HE MUST HAVE
LOOKED INTO THE
FUTURE, TOO. HE MUST
HAVE SEEN THIS WAS THE
ONLY THING HE COULD
DO TO MAKE ME FULLY
TRUST HIM.

HE GAVE UP ALL
HIS POWER FOR
ME.

AND
IT CHANGES THE
FUTURE! THE PATHS
TO HAPPINESS ARE GETTING
BRIGHTER. THE DARKEST
ONES ARE FADING BACK.
THE ONES WHERE POWER
CONSUMES HIM ARE ALMOST
GONE!

DARK FUTURES
COULD STILL
HAPPEN...

BUT RIGHT NOW,
THE DARKSTALKER IN FRONT
OF ME—THE ONE WHO EXISTS—
HAS MADE AN ENORMOUS
SACRIFICE.

THIS IS THE BEST
VERSION OF HIM.

THE ONE
WHO'S SAFE
TO LOVE.







THAT WAY YOU CAN PASS IT DOWN TO ONE OF OUR DRAGONETS.

AW. ECLIPSE WILL LOVE IT.



WE'VE NEVER TALKED ABOUT THE DRAGONETS I CAN SEE IN OUR FUTURE BEFORE. BUT NOW I FEEL LIKE I CAN LET MYSELF HOPE FOR THEM, FAR OFF IN THE HAPPIER TIMELINES...



ARE WE DEFINITE ON THAT NAME? I WAS THINKING SHADOWHUNTER.

THAT'S ONE OF HER BIG SISTERS.

HEE DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT ALREADY?



OF COURSE I DID. ECLIPSE, SHADOWHUNTER, FIERCECLAWS.

NO, NO, NO. FIERCECLAWS? YOU DEFINITELY DON'T WIN THAT ARGUMENT.

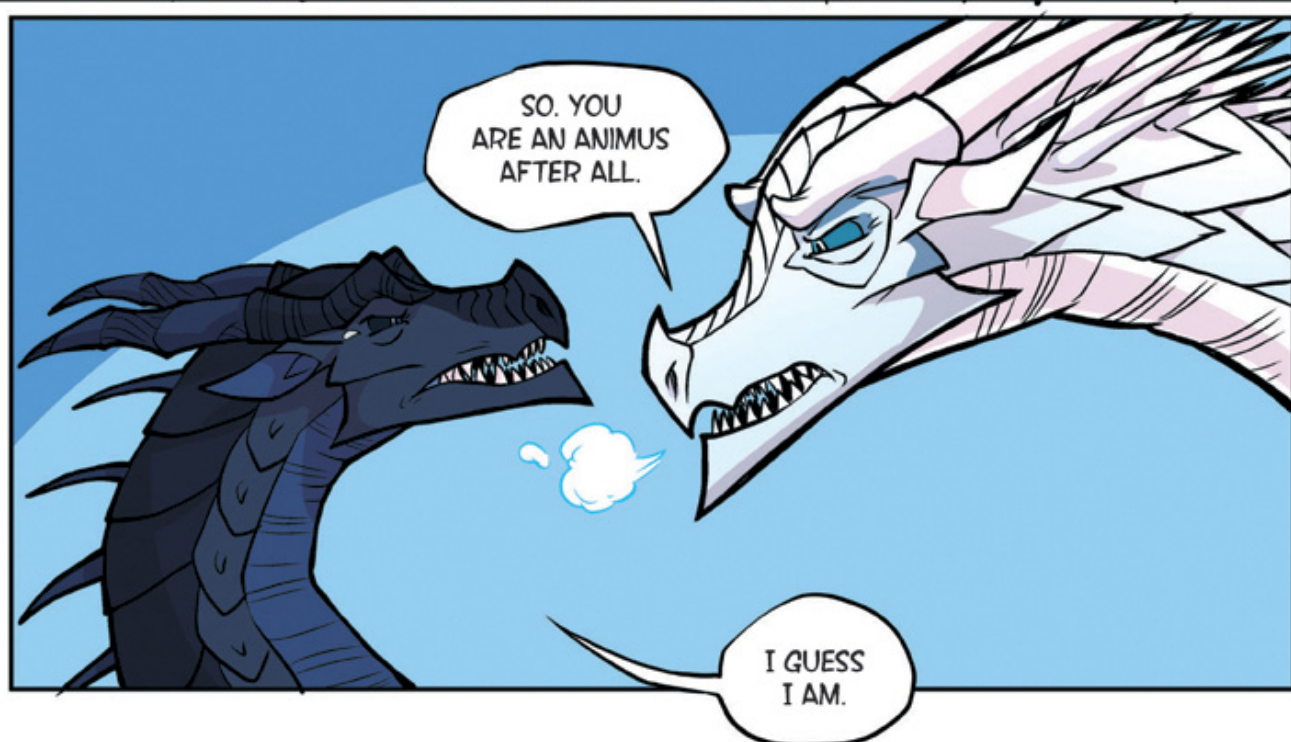


WE COULD NAME ONE AFTER MY MOTHER. SHE'S PRETTY AWESOME. AND FOESLAYER'S A GOOD NAME, ISN'T IT?

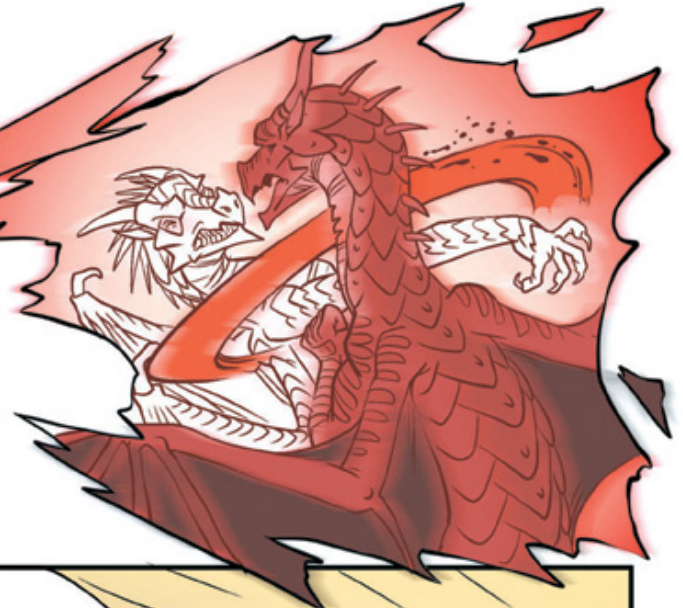
IT IS.

WE DO NAME A DRAGONET FOESLAYER IN SOME FUTURE TIMELINE, BUT... IT'S COMPLICATED FOR SOME REASON. AND SAD.





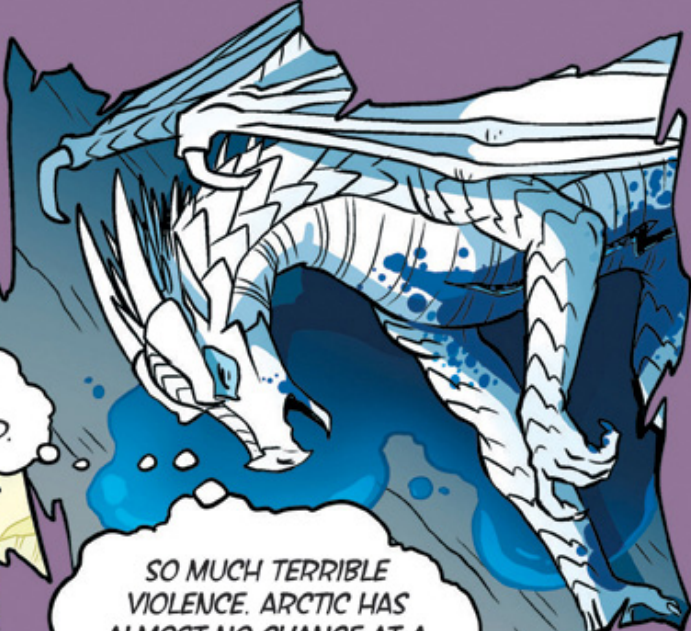






SO MUCH.

SO MANY
PATHS AHEAD.

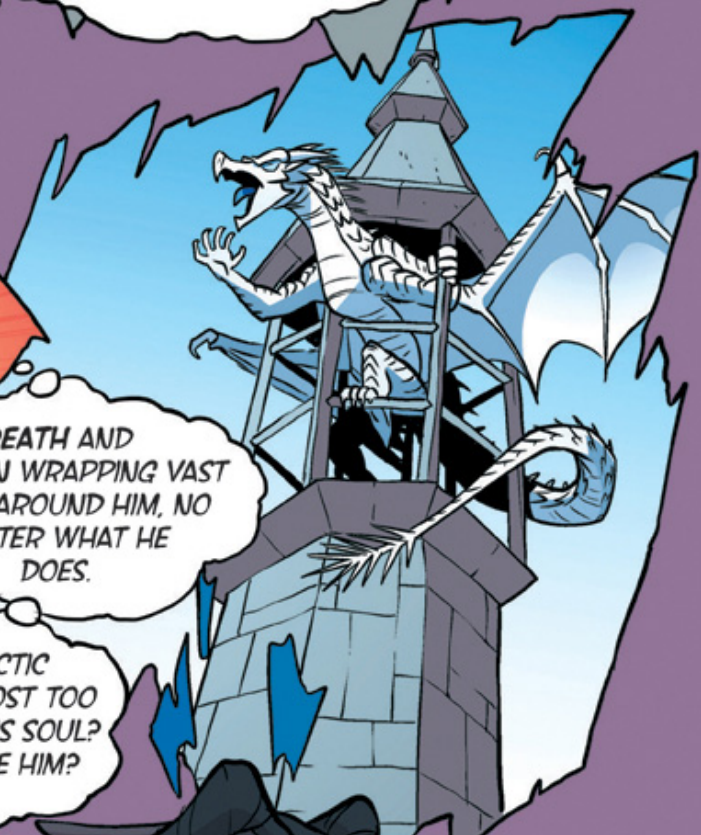


SO MUCH TERRIBLE
VIOLENCE. ARCTIC HAS
ALMOST NO CHANCE AT A
PEACEFUL FUTURE.



BETRAYED...
BETRAYER...

MURDERED...
MURDERER...



DEATH AND
TREASON WRAPPING VAST
WINGS AROUND HIM, NO
MATTER WHAT HE
DOES.



HAS ARCTIC
ALREADY LOST TOO
MUCH OF HIS SOUL?
CAN I SAVE HIM?



CAN
ANYONE?





FATHOM

A LONG, LONELY YEAR HAD PASSED SINCE THE MASSACRE. IT WAS HARD TO DIVIDE UP HIS GRIEF WHEN HE HAD SO MANY DRAGONS TO MOURN. LOSING INDIGO, THOUGH... MOST DAYS, THAT WAS WORST OF ALL. SHE WAS A ROYAL GUARD NOW, PROTECTING THE QUEEN NIGHT AND DAY. FATHOM HADN'T SEEN HER OR PEARL IN MONTHS, NOT EVEN FROM A DISTANCE.

GO ON IN. BUT WE'RE WATCHING YOU, ANIMUS.

MORE GUARDS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY THINK THEY'RE GOING TO DO. IF I GO EVIL, I COULD KILL PEARL FROM HERE. I COULD KILL HER FROM ANYWHERE.

HELLO, BROTHER.

YOUR MAJESTY. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE YOU SUMMONED ME.

WHERE IS INDIGO? NO. I SHOULDN'T LOOK FOR HER. BUT...



INDIGO.

SEEING HER IS
LIKE BEING HIT BY
A TIDAL WAVE.

I REMEMBER CLAW-PAINTING
AS DRAGONETS. DIPPING OUR
TALONS IN BLUE AND GOLD.
CHASING AND ROLLING ALL
AROUND, PAINTING GOLD
SCALES EVERYWHERE.

I REMEMBER THE
HOURS I SPENT MAKING
CARVINGS FOR HER. FISH AND
BIRDS AND SHELLS. THE ONE THAT
WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A DOLPHIN
THAT TURNED OUT LIKE A
BELUGA INSTEAD.

I REMEMBER HOW WE
PRACTICED SWIMMING AND DIVING.
I REMEMBER FILLING OUT OUR FISH
JOURNALS TOGETHER. I REMEMBER
INDIGO TEASING ME FOR PAYING
ATTENTION IN CLASS.

I REMEMBER
THE PEARLS AROUND
HER NECK,

THE BEAT
OF HER HEART
AGAINST MY NECK,

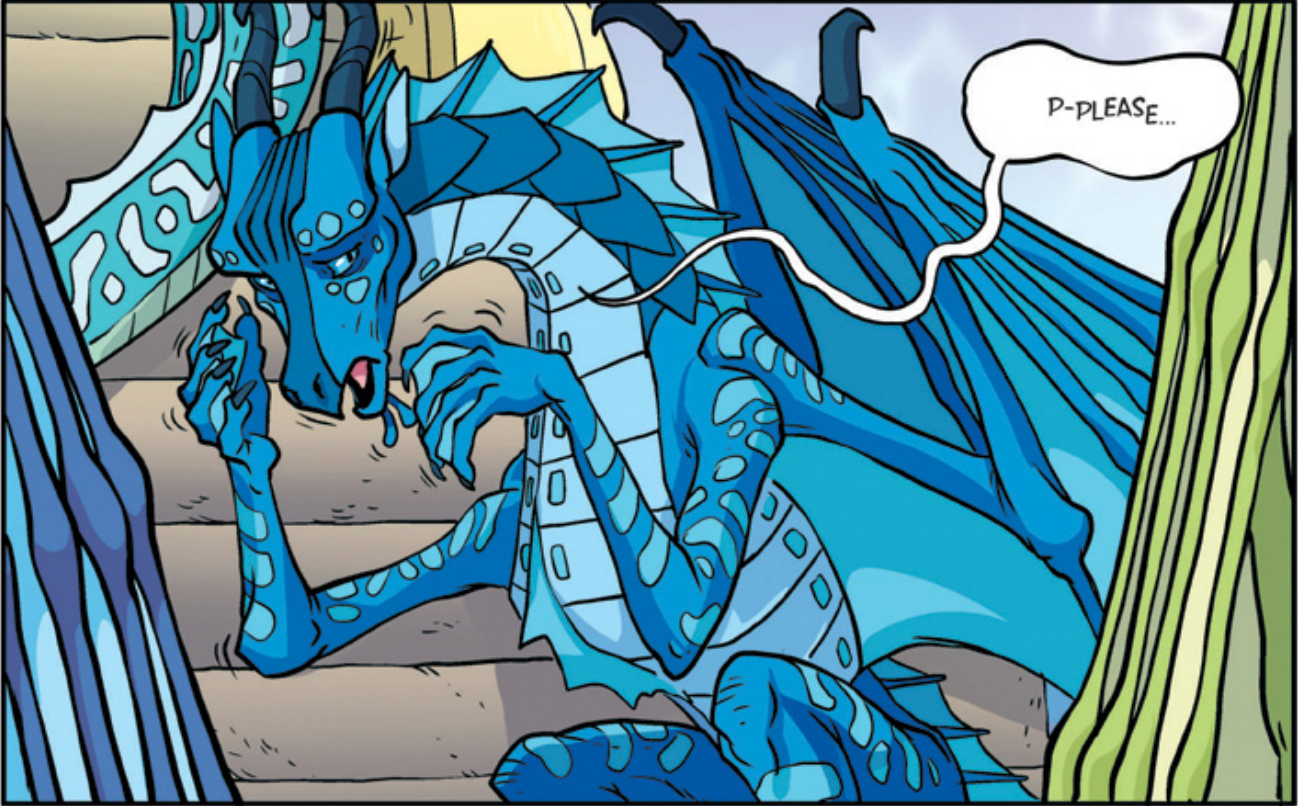
HOLDING HER AS
MY TEARS FELL ON
HER SCALES,

AND I WILLED HER
BACK TO LIFE.

I'D DO IT AGAIN. AGAIN AND
AGAIN, ANYTHING TO SAVE HER.
I'D LET MY SOUL CRUMBLE INTO
DARKNESS IF THAT'S WHAT IT TOOK.

PEARL
IS RIGHT
ABOUT
ME.







P-PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME...
D-DON'T MAKE ME STAY HERE
WITH THE ANIMUS.

SIGH

ALL RIGHT.
TAKE HIM
AWAY.



CURRENT HAS BEEN A...
GUEST... OF THE NIGHTWING
QUEEN ALL THIS TIME. SHE SENT
HIM BACK WITH A MESSAGE.

THE NIGHTWINGS HAVE THEIR
VERY FIRST ANIMUS. REMEMBER
THE RUMORS ABOUT AN ICEWING
PRINCE RUNNING OFF?

THE ANIMUS
IS HIS SON.
DARKSTALKER.



QUEEN VIGILANCE IS
WORRIED HE MIGHT GO
ALL HOMICIDALLY CRAZY
LIKE ALBATROSS. SHE
SAYS HE'S CARELESS
WITH HIS MAGIC.

SOMEONE HAS
TO STOP HIM!

ME?

SOMEONE IS
GOING TO STOP
HIM. YOU.



YOU WILL TRAVEL
TO THE NIGHT KINGDOM,
WHERE QUEEN VIGILANCE
WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO
THE ANIMUS. TELL HIM
YOUR SAD STORY AND
TEACH HIM THE ERROR
OF HIS WAYS.

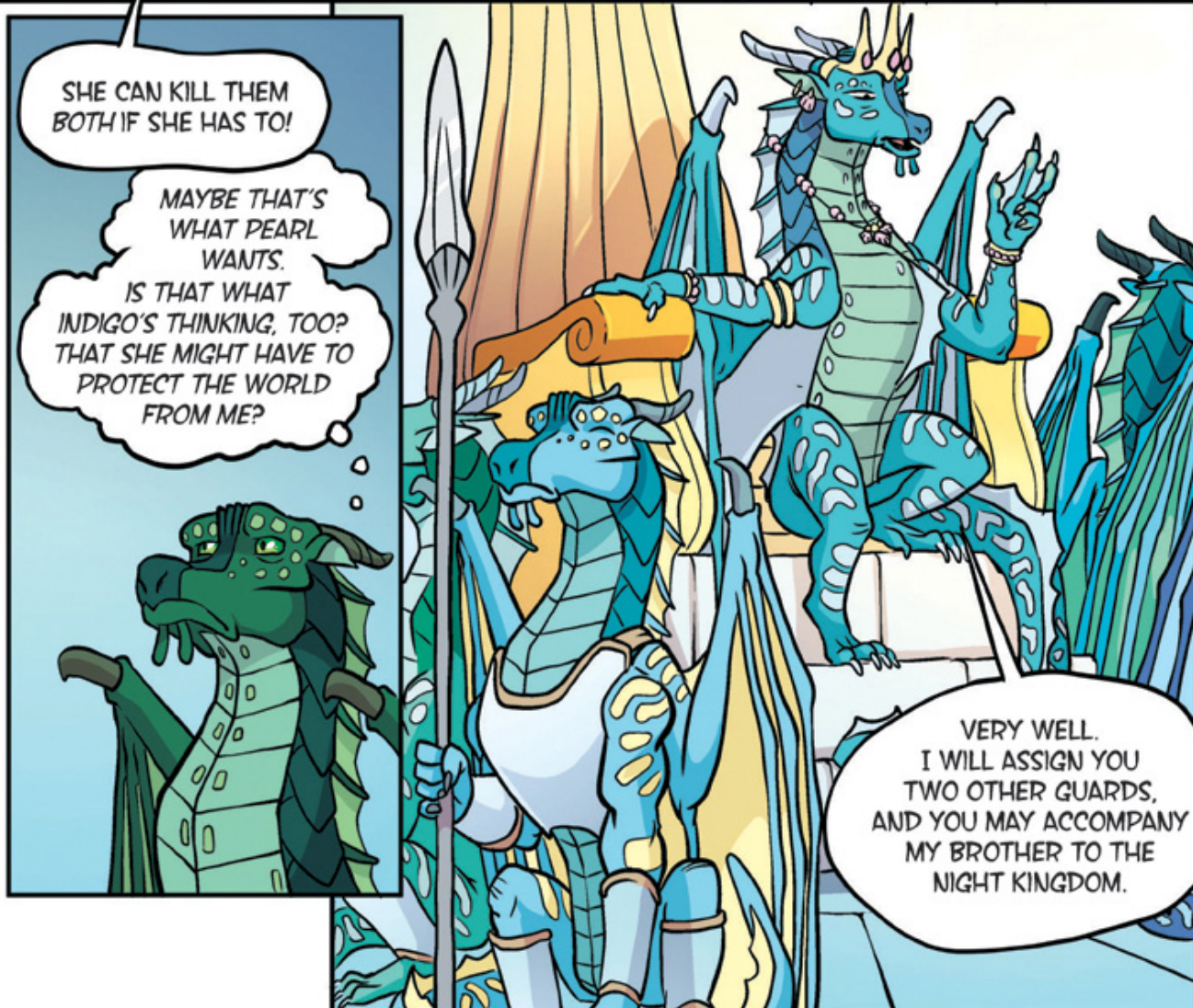
THEN THE
NIGHTWINGS WILL
BE OUR NEW ALLIES.
EVERYONE WINS.



YOUR MAJESTY, IS THAT
SAFE FOR-IS THAT SAFE?

WHAT IF THIS IS A
NIGHTWING TRAP TO STEAL
OUR ANIMUS LIKE THEY
STOLE THE ICEWING?





I'LL BE WITH
INDIGO!



I SHOULDN'T
BE HAPPY
ABOUT THAT.



I SHOULD BE
TERRIFIED.



IS SHE GOING
BECAUSE SHE
DOESN'T
TRUST ME?



OR IS SHE
WORRIED ABOUT
THIS OTHER
ANIMU



STRAIGHT
DANGER...



AND I'M
DRAGGING INDIGO
WITH ME.



LOOKS
A
SP



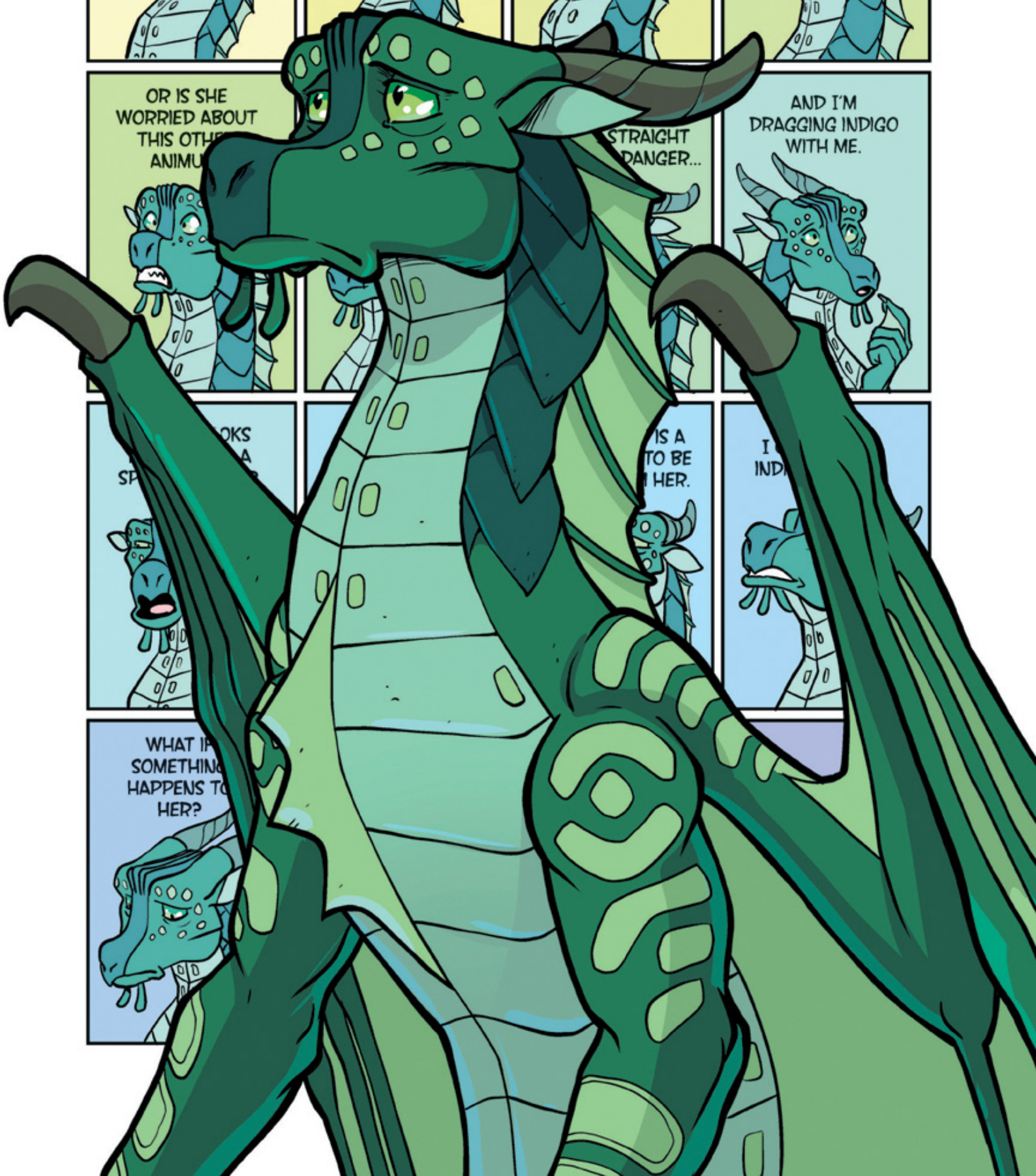
IS A
TO BE
HER.



I
IND



WHAT IF
SOMETHING
HAPPENS TO
HER?



DARKSTALKER

ARCTIC BROUGHT
UP HIS DISCOVERY
AT DINNER.

DID YOU KNOW
OUR SON HAS BEEN
KEEPING A SECRET?

I KNOW HE HAD A
GIRL HERE. WHAT'S
HER NAME?

CLEARSTIGHT.
YOU'LL LIKE
HER.

SHE'S EXACTLY
RIGHT. AZURE ON
THE INSIDE. I LIKE
HOW SHE KNITS.

THAT'S NOT
THE SECRET.
DARKSTALKER'S
AN ANIMUS. AND
HE'S BEEN USING
HIS MAGIC.

MAGIC BROTHER.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
HE'S NOT GOING TO
SNOW FOR A WHILE.

IT'S NOT A
BIG DEAL.

IT DEFINITELY IS.
MOTHER WILL
BE HORRIBLY
PLEASED.

YES, SHE'S
GOING TO EAT
HER TONGUE.

GROSS.

Hee
Hee

WHAT CAN I
ENCHANT TO
SUBDUE HIM?

STOP THINKING
WHAT YOU'RE
THINKING.



DARKSTALKER RATHER ENJOYED BEING THE TRIBE'S FIRST ANIMUS. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE QUEEN SUMMONED HIM TO A PRIVATE AUDIENCE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO WITH YOUR POWER, ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE ICEWINGS.

I WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED, YOUR MAJESTY, AS MY IDEAS DEVELOP.

HOW MUCH OF HIS POWER CAN I USE BEFORE HE GOES MAD?

IF THE QUEEN KNEW ABOUT MY SCROLL, SHE'D DEMAND I DO WHATEVER STUPID THING SHE WANTED. EVERYONE THINKS SHE'S SHREWD, BUT MOST OF HER MENACE COMES FROM STAYING SILENT. PARANOIA MAKES HER ANXIOUS AND SHORTSIGHTED.

THERE'S NO DOUBT I'D BE A BETTER RULER.

SUDDENLY, DARKSTALKER WASN'T JUST A HYBRID MISTAKE. DRAGONS STOPPED BEING CRUEL TO FOESLAYER. THEY EVEN STOPPED MAKING FUN OF WHITEOUT.

CAN I DO YOUR HOMEWORK, DARKSTALKER?

YOU'RE SO HANDSOME, DARKSTALKER!

WOULD YOU LIKE MY APPLE, DARKSTALKER?

I WISH I WERE YOU, DARKSTALKER!

HAVE LUNCH WITH ME, DARKSTALKER!

I LOVE YOUR EARRING, DARKSTALKER!

CAN I BE YOUR FRIEND, DARKSTALKER?

THE QUEEN INVITED HIM AND FOESLAYER TO DINNER PARTIES, TEA, HUNTING WEEKENDS, RACES, TOURNAMENTS, AND GAMES—EVERYTHING THEY'D BEEN SO CAREFULLY EXCLUDED FROM EVEN THOUGH ARCTIC ATTENDED THEM ALL.

WHITEOUT WAS STILL NOT INVITED, BUT DARKSTALKER HAD TO ADMIT SHE'D HATE THE PARTIES ANYWAY. NO MATTER HOW BEAUTIFUL HIS SISTER WAS, DRAGONS LIKE THE QUEEN COULD ONLY SEE "HYBRID."

WHITEOUT, WE'LL BE BACK LATE.

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED CADMIUM YELLOW TASTES LIKE SHIVERING?

...ALL RIGHT, THEN.

CLEARSTIGHT REFUSED ALL OF DARKSTALKER'S INVITATIONS TO JOIN HIM AT THE PALACE.

OTHER DRAGONS BRING WHATEVER RANDOM DRAGONS THEY WANT. I CAN CERTAINLY BRING MY SOULMATE.

I WANT TO EARN MY PLACE ON MY OWN MERITS, NOT SLIP IN ON SOMEONE ELSE'S ARM.

YOU'RE ABANDONING ME WITH A LOT OF BORING COURTIER.

DON'T WORRY. THINGS ARE ABOUT TO CHANGE.

SHE WAS STUBBORN IN OTHER WAYS AS WELL.

PLEASE STOP WEARING THAT AROUND ME. I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF A SPELL MESSING WITH MY HEAD SO YOU SEEM "EXCEPTIONALLY CHARMING AND HANDSOME." I PREFER YOU THE WAY YOU ARE.

JUST HANDSOME ENOUGH. WITH A HEAD THAT STILL FITS THROUGH DOORS. AND I DON'T LIKE HOW IT MAKES OTHER DRAGONS FAWN OVER YOU.

WHICH IS NOT EXCEPTIONALLY CHARMING AND HANDSOME?

JEALOUS?

NO, IT'S JUST... CREEPY.

WHEN DARKSTALKER RECEIVED A ROYAL INVITATION THAT WAS NOTHING LIKE THE OTHERS, HE FELT A THRILL OF ANTICIPATION.

THAT'S ALL?
WELCOMING WHO?

BEFORE I STARTED ATTENDING ROYAL EVENTS, I NEVER KNEW DRESSING CORRECTLY WAS SO IMPORTANT. BUT OF COURSE IT IS. DRAGONS MAKE SUPERFICIAL JUDGMENTS ALL THE TIME.

AND OF COURSE MY JEWELRY IS ALL ENCHANTED.

CLEAR SIGHT WOULDN'T LIKE ME WEARING THIS. BUT I ONLY AGREED NOT TO WEAR IT AROUND HER. SHE'S THE ONE WHO REFUSES TO COME WITH ME.

I SHOULD TRY TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION ON WHOEVER'S BEING WELCOMED. SHOULDN'T I?

FRANKLY, TAIL BANDS LOOK RIDICULOUS, NO MATTER HOW TRENDY THEY ARE. AND THIS ONE IS SO HEAVY.

BUT ITS ENCHANTMENT IS SO... USEFUL. I'LL WEAR IT ANYWAY.

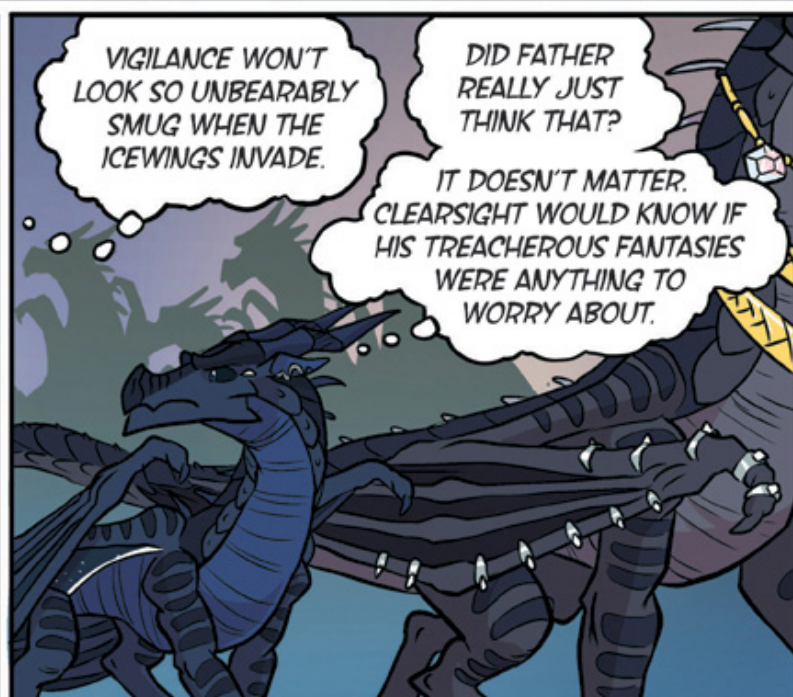


IMPORTANT NIGHT. CAN'T BE LATE.
IF WE EMBARRASS THE QUEEN IN FRONT OF THE SEAWINGS, SHE'LL SEND THEM BACK, OR KILL THEM.

THIS WILL BE ALL
RIGHT. ARCTIC'S IDEA
IS CLEVER. IT'S WHAT
DARKSTALKER NEEDS.









THEY'RE
TERRIFIED
INSIDE.



HOW CAN I DO
THIS? I COULDN'T SAVE
ANYONE BEFORE. HOW
CAN I SAVE HIM?

V-VERY PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
THIS IS—THESE ARE MY GUARDS,
LIONFISH, WHARF... AND INDIGO.

I'VE SEEN HIM IN MY VISIONS.
AND SHE'S NOT JUST A GUARD.



THEY WITNESSED THE MASSACRE IN THE SEAWING
KINGDOM. WHICH HAPPENED AT A PARTY JUST LIKE
THIS ONE. NO WONDER THEY'RE FRIGHTENED.

I'VE GOT TO
GET THESE
POOR SEAWINGS
OUT OF HERE.

I'M HONORED TO
MEET YOU, TOO.



YOUR MAJESTY, MAY I
SHOW THESE TWO THE ROYAL
TOWER? I CAN TAKE THEM FOR
A SHORT FLIGHT AND BE
BACK SOON.

HMM,
SUSPICIOUS...

YOU MAY.
COME BACK
SOON, THOUGH.

YES, YES,
EVERYTHING IS
SUSPICIOUS.



THIS WAY, FATHOM,
AND... AH, WHAT WAS
IT? INDIGO.

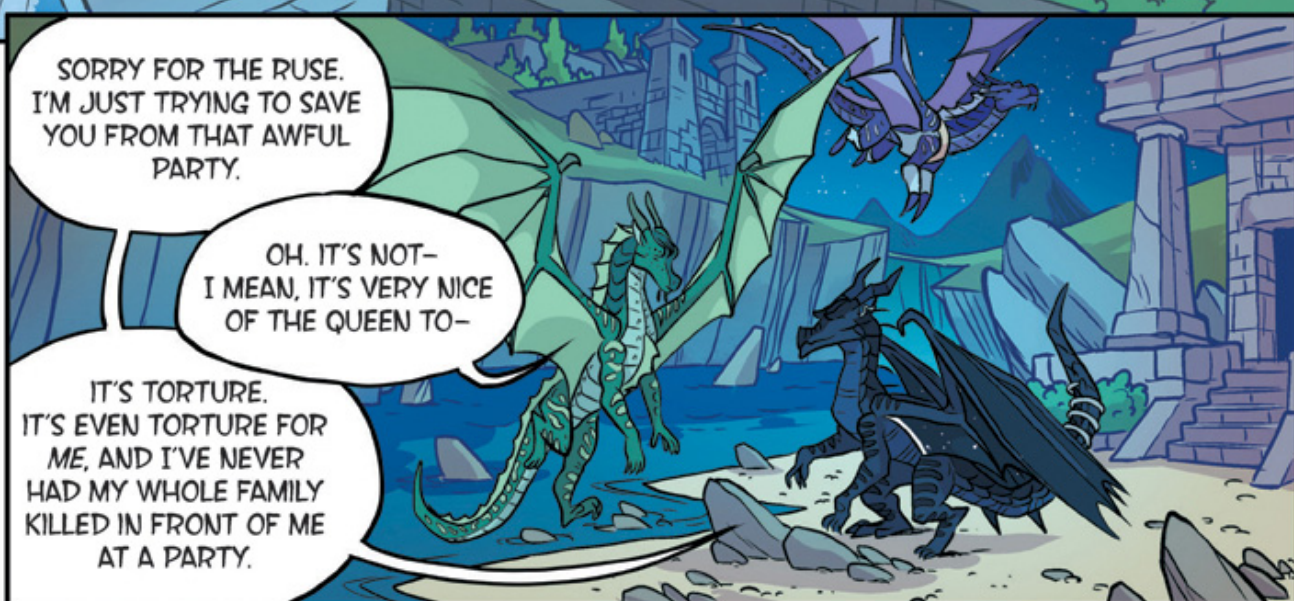
WISH I COULD
LEAVE INDIGO
BEHIND, BUT THEY'D
NEVER ALLOW THAT.



SHOULD I HAVE
INSISTED ON BRINGING
THE OTHER GUARDS?

WHAT IF HE'S
TAKING US AWAY
TO KILL US?

CALM DOWN,
JITTERY SEAWINGS.
I'M TRYING TO
HELP YOU.



SORRY FOR THE RUSE.
I'M JUST TRYING TO SAVE
YOU FROM THAT AWFUL
PARTY.

OH. IT'S NOT—
I MEAN, IT'S VERY NICE
OF THE QUEEN TO—

IT'S TORTURE.
IT'S EVEN TORTURE FOR
ME, AND I'VE NEVER
HAD MY WHOLE FAMILY
KILLED IN FRONT OF ME
AT A PARTY.

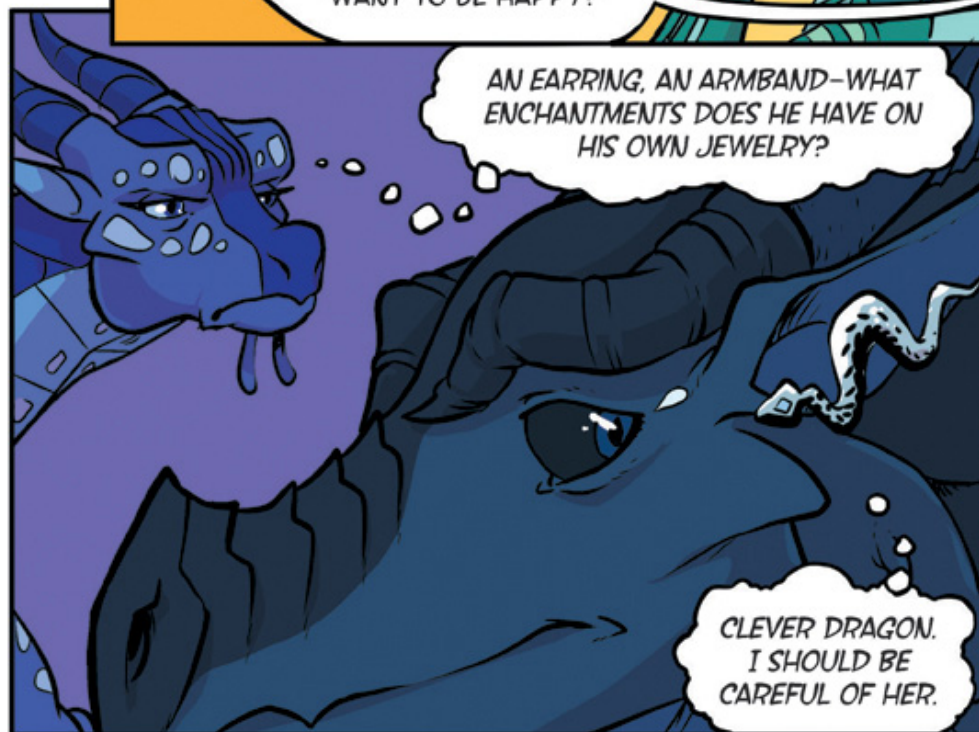


OH, NOBODY TALKS
ABOUT IT IN THE KINGDOM OF
THE SEA? ALL RIGHT, I WON'T
IF YOU PREFER NOT TO. BUT IF
YOU'RE HERE TO BE MY FRIEND,
I CAN AT LEAST SPARE YOU
SOME OF THAT STRESS.



YOU... KNOW
WHY I'M HERE?

BECAUSE WE'RE
BOTH ANIMUSES.
ANIMI? HMM.





INDIGO,
DON'T!

HE'S ALREADY
TRYING TO MESS
WITH YOUR HEAD,
CAN'T YOU TELL?
I SHOULD KILL
HIM TO PROTECT
EVERYONE.

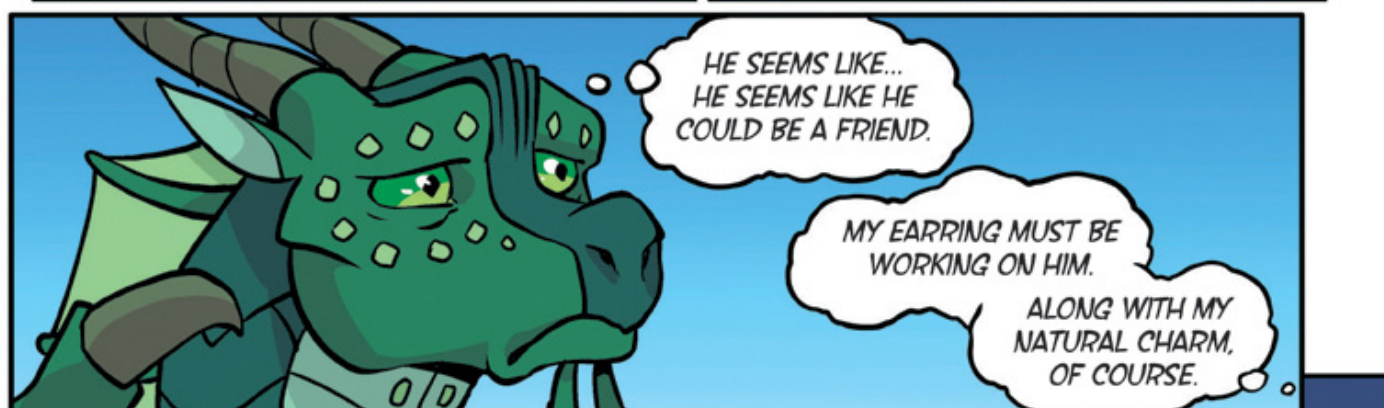
TO
PROTECT
YOU.

AND THIS IS WHY
I WORE MY TAIL
BAND. ONE TOUCH
AND SHE'LL BE
DEAD.

BUT I WANT
TO SEE WHAT
FATHOM DOES
FIRST.

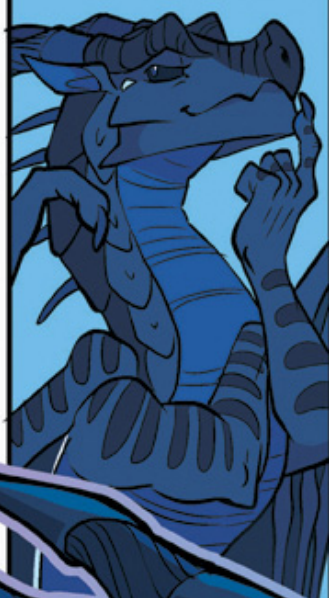
NO, INDIGO,
WE CAN'T. HE'S NOT
ALBATROSS—HE
HASN'T HURT
ANYONE.

YET.



HMM. FUTURES
WHERE INDIGO
KILLS ME—PRETTY
UNLIKELY.

ME KILLING
HER? EASY.



BUT WOW, IT WOULD
DESTROY FATHOM.
A HEARTBROKEN
ANIMUS WITH
NOTHING LEFT TO
LOSE IS HAZARDOUS
COMPANY.



LET HER THINK SHE
COULD HAVE KILLED
ME. THAT WILL MAKE
FATHOM TRUST ME
EVEN MORE.



BUT FOR HIS
SAKE—FOR OUR
FRIENDSHIP—I'LL
HAVE TO GET RID OF
HER. IN SOME CLEVER
WAY HE WON'T
SUSPECT.



I'LL REPLACE HIS
FEAR AND GUILT
WITH JOY. I WANT
HIM TO BE HAPPY
HE'S ALIVE. I'M
SURE HE'LL BE
MUCH HAPPIER
EVENTUALLY
WITHOUT HER
AROUND.



AS WILL I, FRANKLY.
I DON'T LIKE
DRAGONS WHO POINT
SHARP THINGS
AT ME.





I HOPE YOU'RE
RIGHT ABOUT
THIS, FATHOM.

PLEASE DON'T BE
MAD, DARKSTALKER.
SHE'S TRYING TO
PROTECT ME. IT'S
HER JOB.

IT'S MORE
THAN MY JOB.

I COMPLETELY
UNDERSTAND. I'M NOT
MAD AT ALL.

IF HE WANTED TO, HE
COULD USE HIS POWER
ON US RIGHT NOW.
HE COULD HAVE USED
IT TO ESCAPE. MAYBE
HE REALLY **CAN** BE
TRUSTED, AFTER ALL.



I HOPE I DIDN'T
JUST MAKE A REALLY
TERRIBLE ENEMY.



OH, YOU MOST
CERTAINLY DID.



CLEAR SIGHT

THE TIME HAD COME FOR OPERATION SCAVENGER RESCUE. CLEARSIGHT AND LISTENER BROKE INTO THE SCHOOL TOGETHER, READY TO LIBERATE THE OPPRESSED CLASSROOM PETS. WERE THE SCAVENGERS GRATEFUL? NO.



POOR THING...
IT LOOKS RESIGNED
TO BEING EATEN.

I DON'T THINK THEY
LIKE BEING ALONE WITHOUT
OTHER SCAVENGERS.



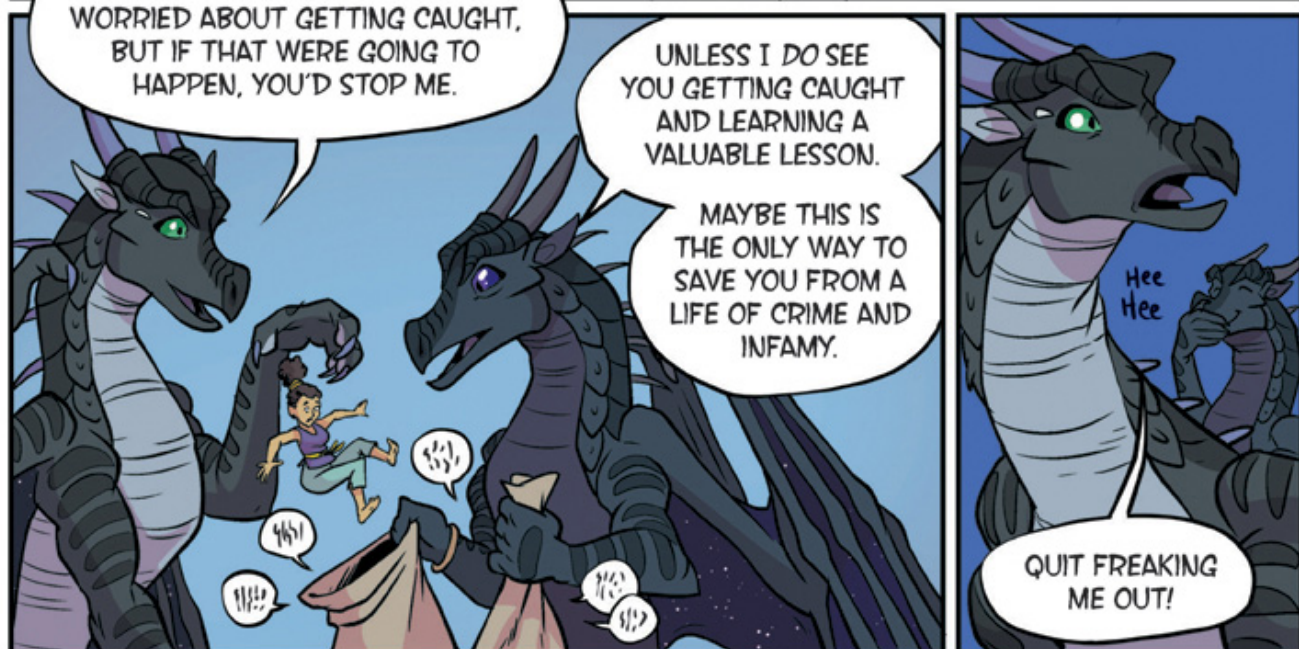
STOP BEING
ANNOYING! WE'RE
RESCUING YOU!

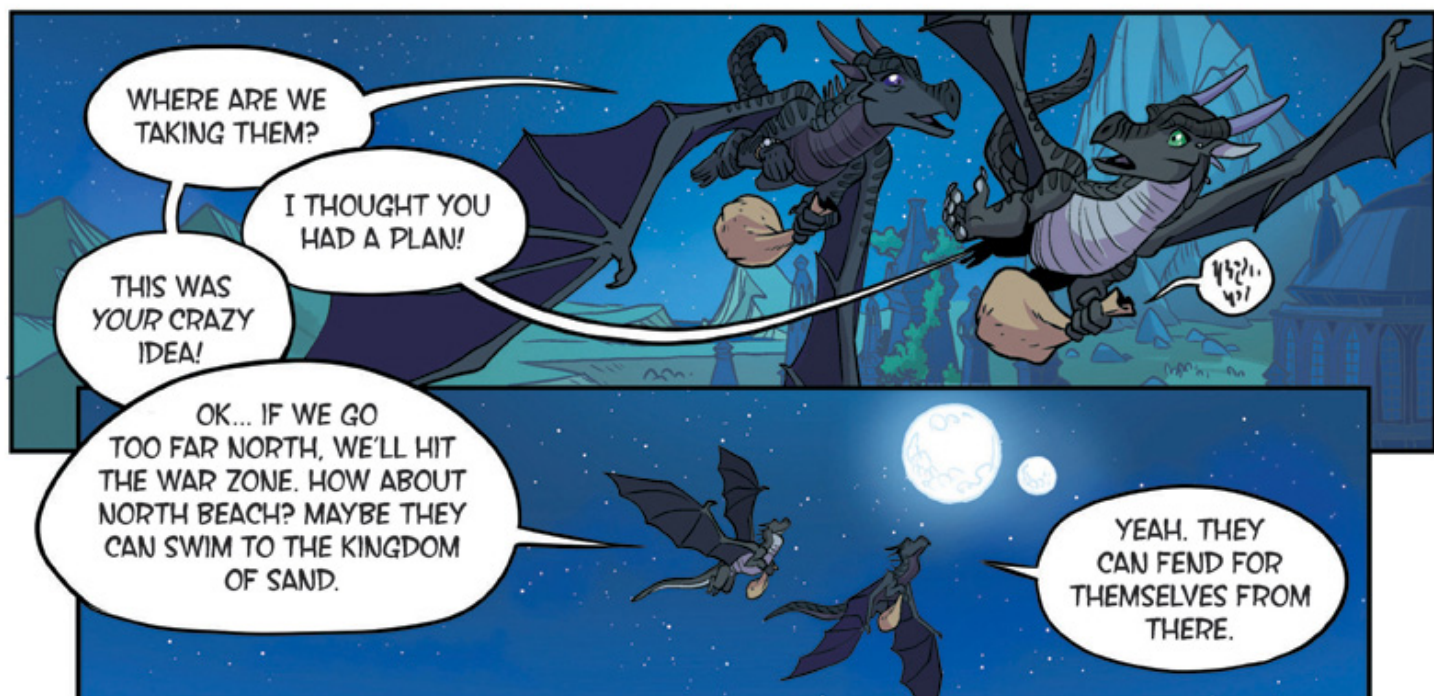
THEY REALLY DO
LOOK LIKE THEY'RE
WORKING TOGETHER.

በፍጥነት

המחלקה







WHERE ARE WE
TAKING THEM?

I THOUGHT YOU
HAD A PLAN!

THIS WAS
YOUR CRAZY
IDEA!

OK... IF WE GO
TOO FAR NORTH, WE'LL HIT
THE WAR ZONE. HOW ABOUT
NORTH BEACH? MAYBE THEY
CAN SWIM TO THE KINGDOM
OF SAND.

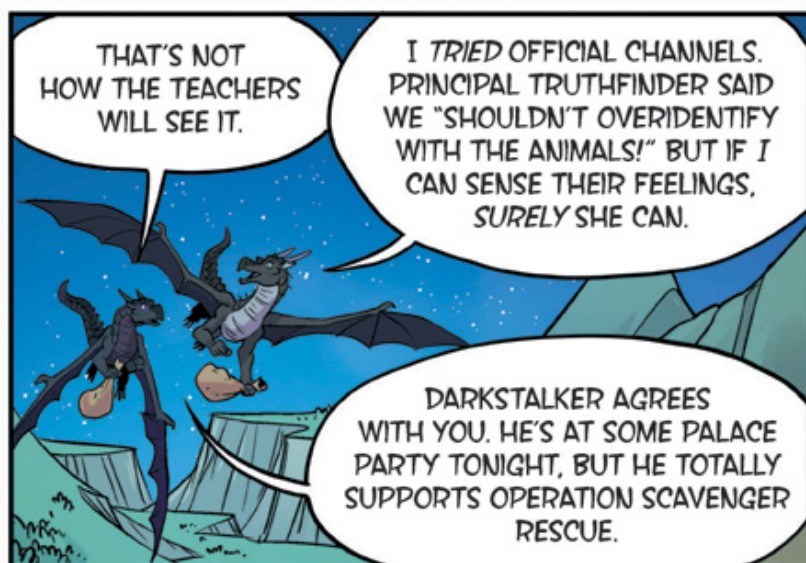
YEAH. THEY
CAN FEND FOR
THEMSELVES FROM
THERE.



HAHAHAHA!
I CAN'T BELIEVE
WE DID THAT!
WE'RE CRIMINALS!

AAGH!!

WE'RE NOT CRIMINALS,
WE'RE HEROES! RIGHTING
WRONGS! SAVING THE DAY!



THAT'S NOT
HOW THE TEACHERS
WILL SEE IT.

I TRIED OFFICIAL CHANNELS.
PRINCIPAL TRUTHFINDER SAID
WE "SHOULDN'T OVERIDENTIFY
WITH THE ANIMALS!" BUT IF I
CAN SENSE THEIR FEELINGS,
SURELY SHE CAN.

DARKSTALKER AGREES
WITH YOU. HE'S AT SOME PALACE
PARTY TONIGHT, BUT HE TOTALLY
SUPPORTS OPERATION SCAVENGER
RESCUE.



WHY TONIGHT, BY
THE WAY? WE'VE BEEN
TALKING ABOUT THIS
SINCE THE FIRST DAY
WE MET.

TONIGHT WAS SAFEST.
AND ALSO BEST FOR THE
SCAVENGERS—NOT TOO COLD,
BRIGHT ENOUGH TO SEE
THEIR WAY.

AND... SOMETHING
ELSE. I WISH I COULD
SEE WHAT.



WE'RE REALLY
DOING IT! CLEARSIGHT,
YOU'RE MY BEST
FRIEND EVER!

READY?

YES!



HEY! OUCH!
RUDE!

WE'RE YOUR
SAVIORS, YOU
STUNTED
GORILLAS!



וואס איז
אין אים?



וואס איז
אין אים?

WHIIINE



טף

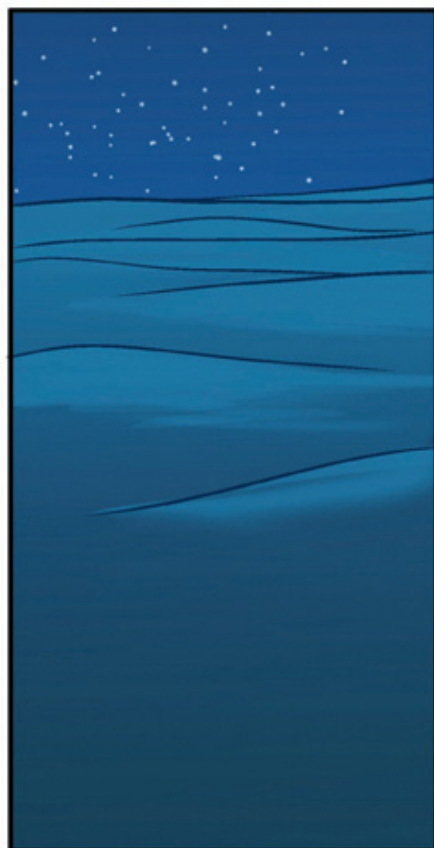
DID YOU SEE THAT?
YOUR SCAVENGER TOOK
MY SCAVENGER WITH HER!
COME ON, DIDN'T THAT
LOOK LIKE EMPATHY
TO YOU?

IT DID. ALTHOUGH
A LITTLE *GRATITUDE*
WOULD BE NICE,
TOO. WHERE'S THE
EMPATHY FOR THEIR
HEROIC DRAGON
RESCUERS?











THE ICEWINGS
FOUND A WAY INTO
OUR TERRITORY!

THOSE WERE
ADVANCE SCOUTS
ON A TEST RUN.
THEY'RE PLANNING
AN INVASION.

THEY'RE
GOING TO
BRING THE
WAR HERE!

EXCEPT
THEY WON'T.
BECAUSE I'M
GOING TO
STOP THEM.

THIS IS WHY
MY INSTINCTS
BROUGHT ME
HERE. SO I
COULD HAVE
THIS VISION
AND WARN
THE QUEEN.

I'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR THIS.
MY MOMENT TO
SERVE THE QUEEN
AND SAVE THE
TRIBE.

SO NOW THAT
IT'S HAPPENED...
WHY AM I TERRIFIED
TO MY BONES?



ARE THEY GONE?

YES, I COULD HEAR THEM THINKING GRUMPY THOUGHTS ABOUT EACH OTHER AS THEY SWAM AWAY.



I HAVE TO TELL THE QUEEN.

BETTER YOU THAN ME. I DO NOT WANT TO EXPLAIN TO MY PARENTS WHAT I WAS DOING OUT HERE.

I CAN LEAVE YOU OUT OF IT.



CLEAR SIGHT... LISTEN—I KNOW I TOLD YOU I DON'T WANT TO KNOW THE FUTURE. BUT IF—I IF I EVER HAVE TO EVACUATE MY FAMILY—I MEAN, IF IT'S A QUESTION OF SAVING THEIR LIVES... IF SOMETHING REALLY, REALLY BAD IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN... THEN I GUESS I DO WANT YOU TO TELL ME.



IT'S NOT THAT BAD YET. BUT I PROMISE I WILL, IF I'M EVER WORRIED.

IT WON'T COME TO THAT. THE QUEEN WILL LISTEN. WE'LL STOP THEM. I'LL SAVE THE TRIBE.

SO WHY AM I STILL HAVING VISIONS OF NIGHTWINGS FLEEING SOME TERRIBLE DANGER?



I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT IS... BUT TONIGHT SOME DARK FUTURE HAS BECOME A LITTLE BIT MORE REAL.

FATHOM

FATHOM WAS CONSTANTLY SURPRISED BY HOW OFFICIAL INDIGO LOOKED WHEN SHE WAS ON DUTY. SHE STOOD TALL WITH HER SHOULDERS SQUARED, HOLDING HER SPEAR LIKE A WEAPON, NOT A PROP. SHE REALLY LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS READY TO KILL SOMEONE TO PROTECT HIM. LIKE A TRUE BODYGUARD.

IT SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR ME TO KEEP INDIGO AT A DISTANCE, IF ONLY I COULD REMEMBER TO THINK OF HER THAT WAY.

JUST A GUARD. NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT DRAGON IN MY LIFE.

HERE YOU ARE, PRINCE FATHOM. THE GUEST SUITE FOR VISITING SEAWINGS. YOUR OTHER GUARDS ARE ALREADY INSIDE.

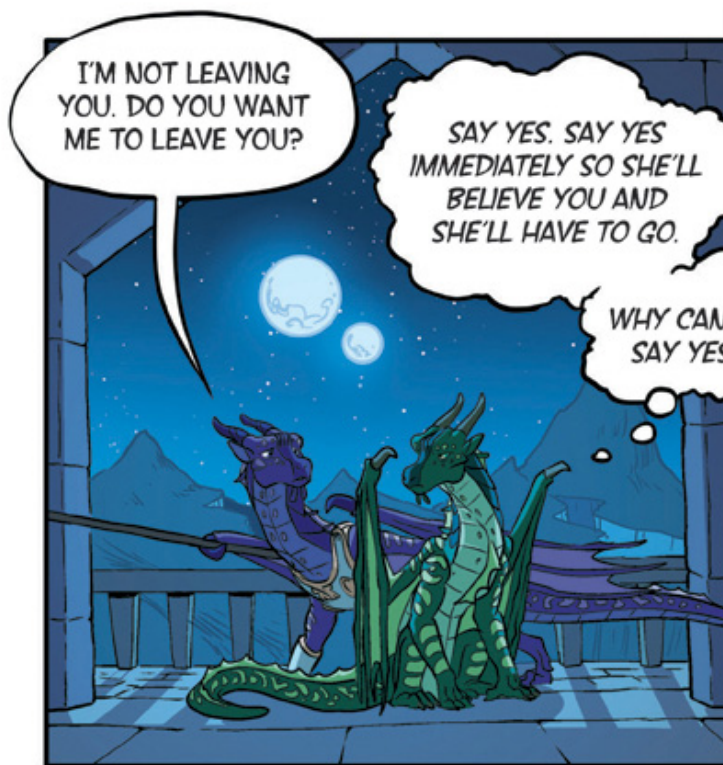
THANK YOU. UM, WHEN'S BREAKFAST?

AROUND MIDDAY. NIGHTWINGS ALMOST NEVER WAKE BEFORE THEN. MOST OF THE PALACE RESIDENTS WILL BE ASLEEP NOW AFTER GOING TO BED AT SUNRISE.

GOOD TO KNOW.

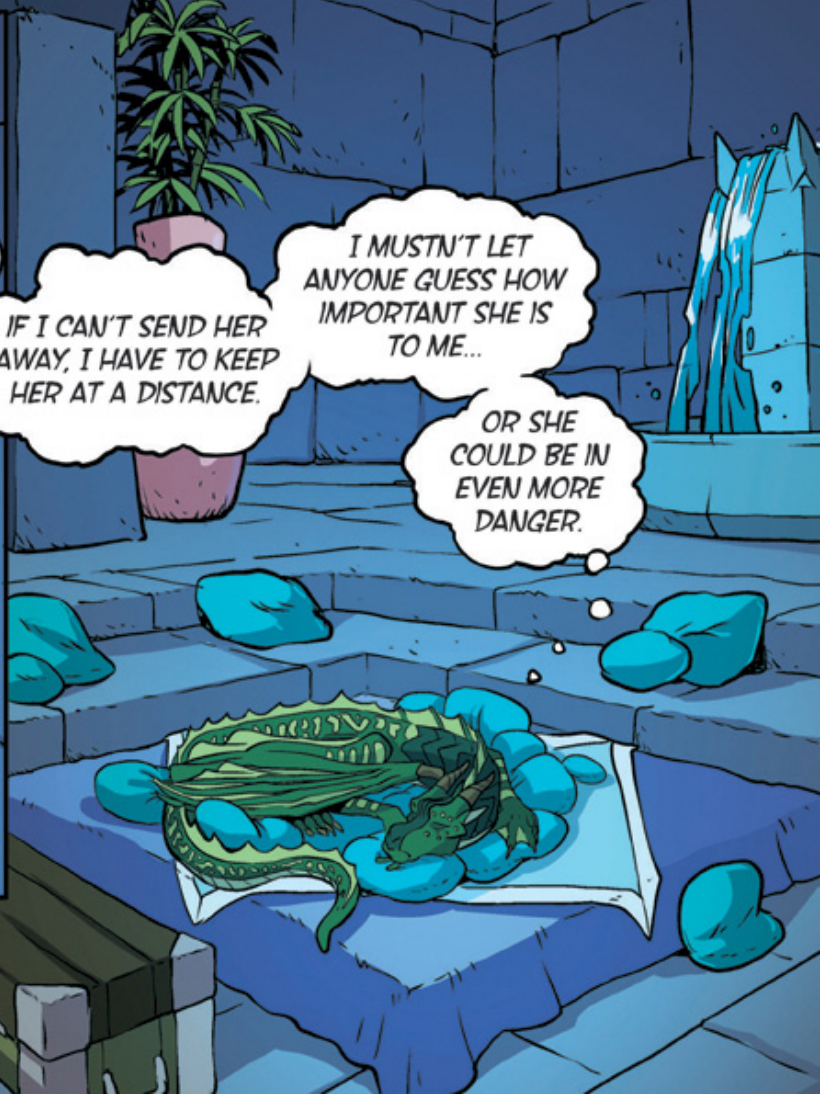






SAY YES. SAY YES IMMEDIATELY SO SHE'LL BELIEVE YOU AND SHE'LL HAVE TO GO.

WHY CAN'T I SAY YES?



DARKSTALKER

DARKSTALKER WAS MORE RATTLED BY INDIGO'S ATTACK THAN HE'D REALIZED AT FIRST. AS HE UNCLASPED HIS TAILBAND, HE REALIZED IT HAD BEEN HIS ONLY PROTECTION AGAINST BEING KILLED. ALL HIS POWER WAS HIDDEN IN HIS SCROLL. HE COULDN'T HAVE EVEN HEALED HIMSELF. HE COULD HAVE BLED TO DEATH, COMPLETELY HELPLESS. HIM! DARKSTALKER, THE MOST POWERFUL DRAGON IN THE WORLD!

IF INDIGO HAD MOVED FASTER—IF SHE HADN'T STOPPED TO DISCUSS HER PLAN WITH FATHOM—SHE COULD HAVE KILLED ME.

SO WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT IT?

chirp

MORE JEWELRY? BUT SOMEONE COULD TAKE OFF MY JEWELRY, OR IT COULD FLY OFF DURING A FIGHT.

I COULD EMBED A JEWEL IN MY SCALES OR MY TEETH... NO, NOTHING REMOVABLE. A SMART DRAGON LIKE INDIGO MIGHT SPOT THAT.

WHAT IF... COULD I ENCHANT MY ACTUAL SCALES? WHY NOT?



HMM. BUT WHAT WOULD CLEARSIGHT THINK ABOUT THIS? SHE ALWAYS WANTS TO DISCUSS MY SPELLS.

UGH, I SENSE AN ARGUMENT COMING. SHE'LL BE JUDGMENTAL AND ANXIOUS AND QUESTION EVERYTHING I DO. I HATE THAT KIND OF ARGUMENT.



MAYBE I CAN AVOID IT...

HERE, NEAR THE BEGINNING—THERE'S SPACE FOR ME TO WRITE NEW SPELLS BETWEEN THE LINES OF THE OLD ONES. WITH LUCK, CLEARSIGHT WON'T GO BACK AND REREAD THEM. MAYBE SHE'LL NEVER NOTICE.



ENCHANT DARKSTALKER'S SCALES TO BE INVULNERABLE TO HARM OF ANY SORT, TO HEAL INSTANTLY IF INJURED, AND TO SHIELD HIM INDESTRUCTIBLY FROM ANY THREAT OF DEATH.



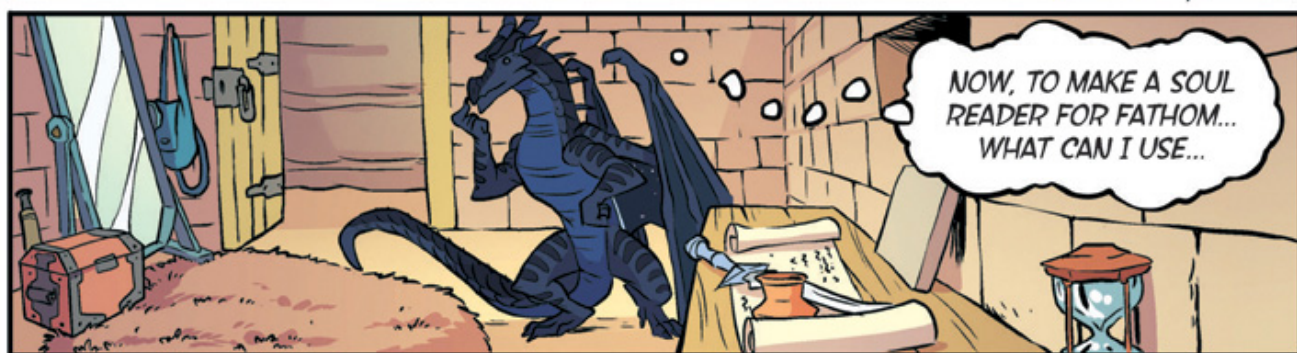
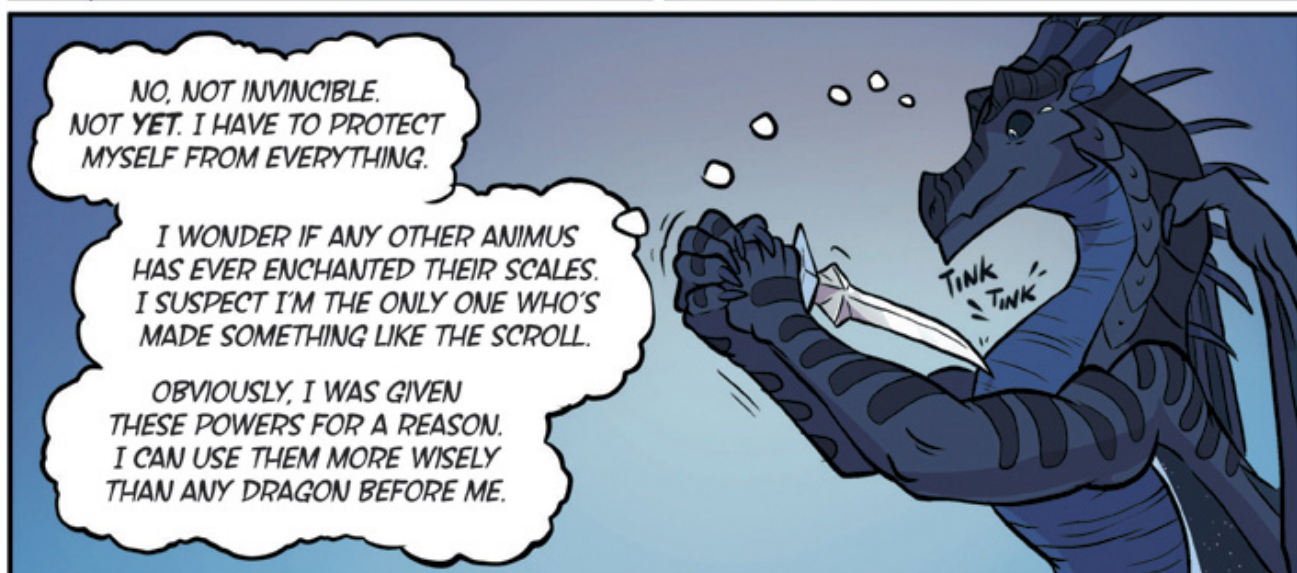
A LITTLE DRAMATIC, BUT I LIKE THE SOUND OF IT.

SHOULD I GO A STEP FURTHER AND MAKE MYSELF IMMORTAL? IMAGINE EVERYTHING I COULD DO FOR PYRRHIA IF I COULD LIVE FOREVER!



I SHOULD TEST THIS SPELL FIRST, THOUGH.

DEEP BREATH. NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF. NOT EVER AGAIN, IF THIS WORKS.



CLEAR SIGHT

CLEAR SIGHT HAD NEVER REVEALED THE EXTENT OF HER POWER TO ANYONE BUT DARKSTALKER BEFORE, BUT NOW SHE HAD NO CHOICE. SHE HAD TO WARN QUEEN VIGILANCE ABOUT THE ICEWING INVASION, NO MATTER HOW NERVOUS SHE FELT ABOUT ENTERING THE PRESENCE OF ROYALTY.

DO YOU REALLY THINK THE QUEEN WILL LISTEN TO ME?

OF COURSE.

I SHOULD HAVE ENCHANTED THIS TO MAKE YOU FEEL AS CONFIDENT AND BEAUTIFUL AS YOU LOOK.

YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT, WOULD YOU? CHANGE MY FEELINGS WITH MAGIC? YOU KNOW THAT WOULD BE COMPLETELY NOT OK WITH ME, RIGHT?

APPROACH.

THAT THRONE.
I'VE SEEN IT IN SO
MANY VISIONS-

KEEP IT TOGETHER.
DON'T COLLAPSE.

THOSE PATHS DON'T HAVE
TO HAPPEN. THEY **WON'T** HAPPEN.
I WON'T LET THEM.

COME ON, CLEARSIGHT.
FOLLOW THE BRIGHT VISIONS, THE
WAY DARKSTALKER ALWAYS TELLS
YOU TO. DON'T LET YOURSELF
FALL INTO THE DARK.

ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?
VISIONS?

I'M FINE.



THE DRAGON BESIDE
THE QUEEN DOESN'T
LIKE YOU VERY MUCH.

THAT'S THE TEACHER
I TOLD YOU ABOUT.
ALLKNOWING. THE
QUEEN'S TOP SEER.



YOUR MAJESTY,
THIS IS CLEARSIGHT,
A VERY GIFTED SEER.



AH. SEERS.
ALWAYS SO ILLUMINATING.
YOU MAY SPEAK.



I COME
WITH A
WARNING.

THE ICEWINGS ARE PLANNING
AN INVASION BY SEA AT NORTH BEACH.
MOST LIKELY THE NEXT TIME
TWO MOONS ARE NEW AT ONCE,
WHEN THEY CAN USE THE COVER
OF DARKNESS.



WHAT IS
THIS? DON'T
YOU HAVE A
PROPHECY
FOR ME?



I'M SORRY IT DOESN'T
SOUND FANCIER, BUT I'M SURE IT'S
TRUE. IN EVERY FUTURE I CAN SEE,
THE ICEWINGS ATTACK UNLESS
YOU STOP THEM.









YOU'VE SEEN
ME IN YOUR
VISIONS?

LOTS OF TIMES.
WE'RE GOING
TO BE FRIENDS,
I PROMISE.

HMMM.

IT'S ALL RIGHT,
INDIGO.

GUESS WHAT? I'M MOVING INTO THE PALACE, TOO!
WE'LL BASICALLY BE NEIGHBORS. YOU'VE ALREADY
MET DARKSTALKER, RIGHT?

WE MET
LAST NIGHT.

FATHOM GAVE ME A
GREAT IDEA, ACTUALLY. IS
THERE TIME FOR ME TO SHOW
YOU GUYS OR DO YOU HAVE
TO BE SOMEWHERE?

HONESTLY, THE QUEEN
HASN'T SENT FOR US. I'M
NOT SURE WHAT WE'RE
SUPPOSED TO BE DOING.

I'M PRETTY SURE YOUR
ONLY REAL MISSION IS TO
HANG OUT WITH ME, SO
YOU'RE DOING EXCELLENT
WORK RIGHT NOW.



WELL, YOU'RE ALSO SUPPOSED TO
BE TEACHING HIM THINGS. MAYBE TRY
LOOKING MORE STERN. OOH, OR A LITTLE
MENACING. SAY SOMETHING WISE NOW
AND THEN.

UM, LIKE... NEVER EAT THE
PURPLE VARIETY OF LONG-
LEGGED SEA CRAB?



HA!

JUST LIKE THAT.
THAT'S EXACTLY THE KIND
OF ADVICE I LIKE.



ANYWAY, SO I WENT HOME AND STARTED THINKING AND ENDED UP NOT SLEEPING AT ALL BECAUSE I WAS TOO EXCITED AND HEEERE'S WHAT I CAME UP WITH-



WATCH THIS.



AW, YOU'RE SO GOOD.

WHAT IN THE WORLD? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



IT'S A SOUL READER. POINT IT AT ANYONE AND IT'LL TELL YOU THE BALANCE OF GOOD AND EVIL IN THEM. BLACK SAND IS GOOD, LIKE NIGHTWINGS, AND WHITE SAND IS BAD, LIKE ICEWINGS.





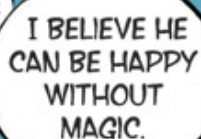
BUT DARKSTALKER, PLEASE STOP USING YOUR MAGIC. MY GRANDFATHER—I DON'T KNOW WHAT TIPPED HIM INTO EVIL. ONE SPELL MIGHT MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.



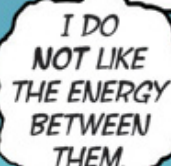
FATHOM, YOUR POWER IS A GIFT. YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO TERRIFIED OF IT. YOU HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO USE IT SAFELY AND MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU.



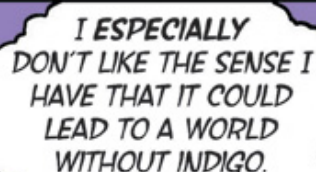
I JUST WANT HIM TO BE HAPPY. DON'T YOU?



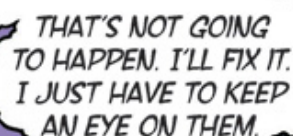
I BELIEVE HE CAN BE HAPPY WITHOUT MAGIC.



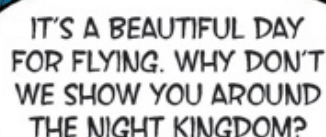
I DO NOT LIKE THE ENERGY BETWEEN THEM.



I ESPECIALLY DON'T LIKE THE SENSE I HAVE THAT IT COULD LEAD TO A WORLD WITHOUT INDIGO.



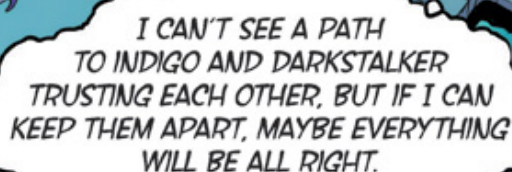
THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. I'LL FIX IT. I JUST HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM.



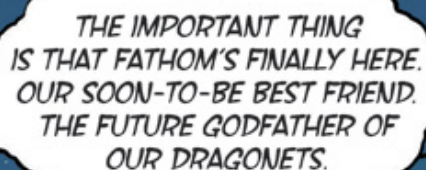
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR FLYING. WHY DON'T WE SHOW YOU AROUND THE NIGHT KINGDOM?



YES!



I CAN'T SEE A PATH TO INDIGO AND DARKSTALKER TRUSTING EACH OTHER, BUT IF I CAN KEEP THEM APART, MAYBE EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT.



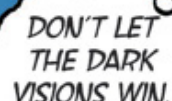
THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT FATHOM'S FINALLY HERE. OUR SOON-TO-BE BEST FRIEND. THE FUTURE GODFATHER OF OUR DRAGONETS.



DON'T LOOK DOWN.



DON'T CHASE THE STORM.



DON'T LET THE DARK VISIONS WIN.

FATHOM

WEEKS PASSED IN A BLUR THAT GOT HAPPIER AND HAPPIER EACH DAY. AFTER A YEAR OF COLD SILENCES AND SOLITUDE, FATHOM SUDDENLY FOUND HIMSELF WRAPPED IN WARMTH AND ATTENTION. DARKSTALKER AND CLEARSIGHT WEREN'T AFRAID OF HIM. THEY SEEMED TO LIKE HIM. THEY MADE HIM LAUGH—THEY EVEN SOMETIMES MADE HIM FORGET WHAT HE'D BEEN THROUGH. STILL, HE NEVER FORGOT TO KEEP WATCHING DARKSTALKER FOR SIGNS OF EVIL.







I KNEW IT WAS YOU.



GASP!
REALLY? IT'S LIKE YOU CAN PREDICT THE FUTURE!



YOU ARE NOT DISTRACTING ME TODAY!
GO AWAY!



THE QUEEN WANTS A FULL REPORT ON THE NEXT YEAR OF ICEWING MANEUVERS BY TOMORROW!





GREAT KINGDOMS.

TELL VIGILANCE THAT AN ENTIRE YEAR OF INFORMATION IS IMPOSSIBLE. ESPECIALLY WITH A WHOLE TRIBE, AN UNPREDICTABLE QUEEN, AND ALL THE LITTLE RIDICULOUS THINGS THAT CAN GO WRONG IN A WAR.



THEY'RE NOT RIDICULOUS WHEN HUNDREDS OF LIVES ARE AT STAKE.

AND QUEEN DIAMOND ISN'T COMPLETELY UNPREDICTABLE; SHE JUST CHANGES HER MIND A LOT. BESIDES, THIS IS IMPORTANT—I HELPED US WIN THE SKIRMISH AT SEA LAST WEEK, AND I MADE SURE THE ARMY AVOIDED THAT AMBUSH IN THE CACTUS MAZES.



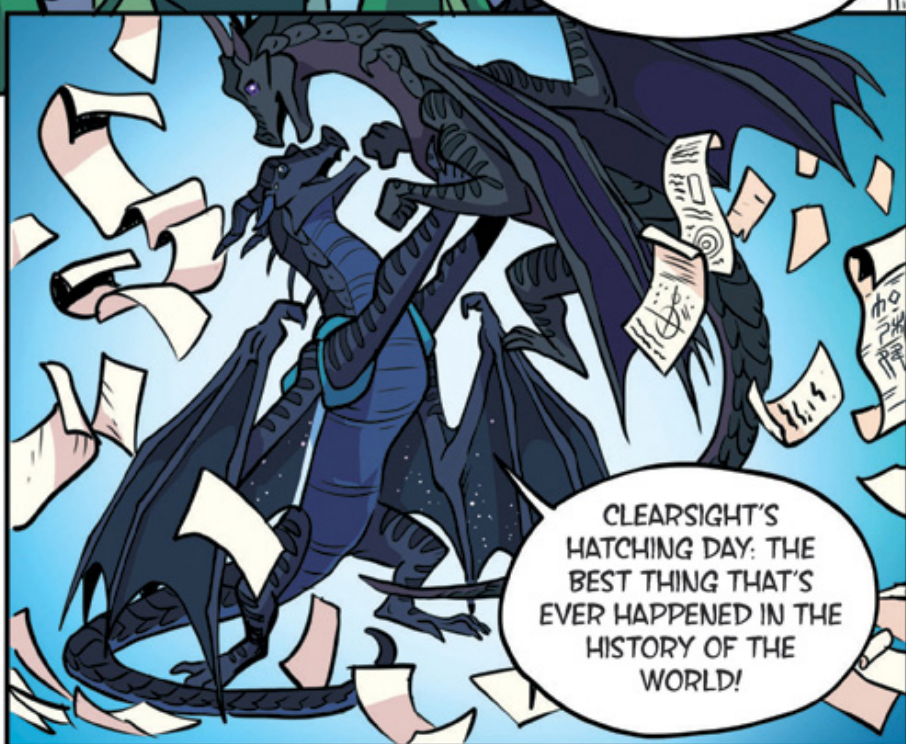
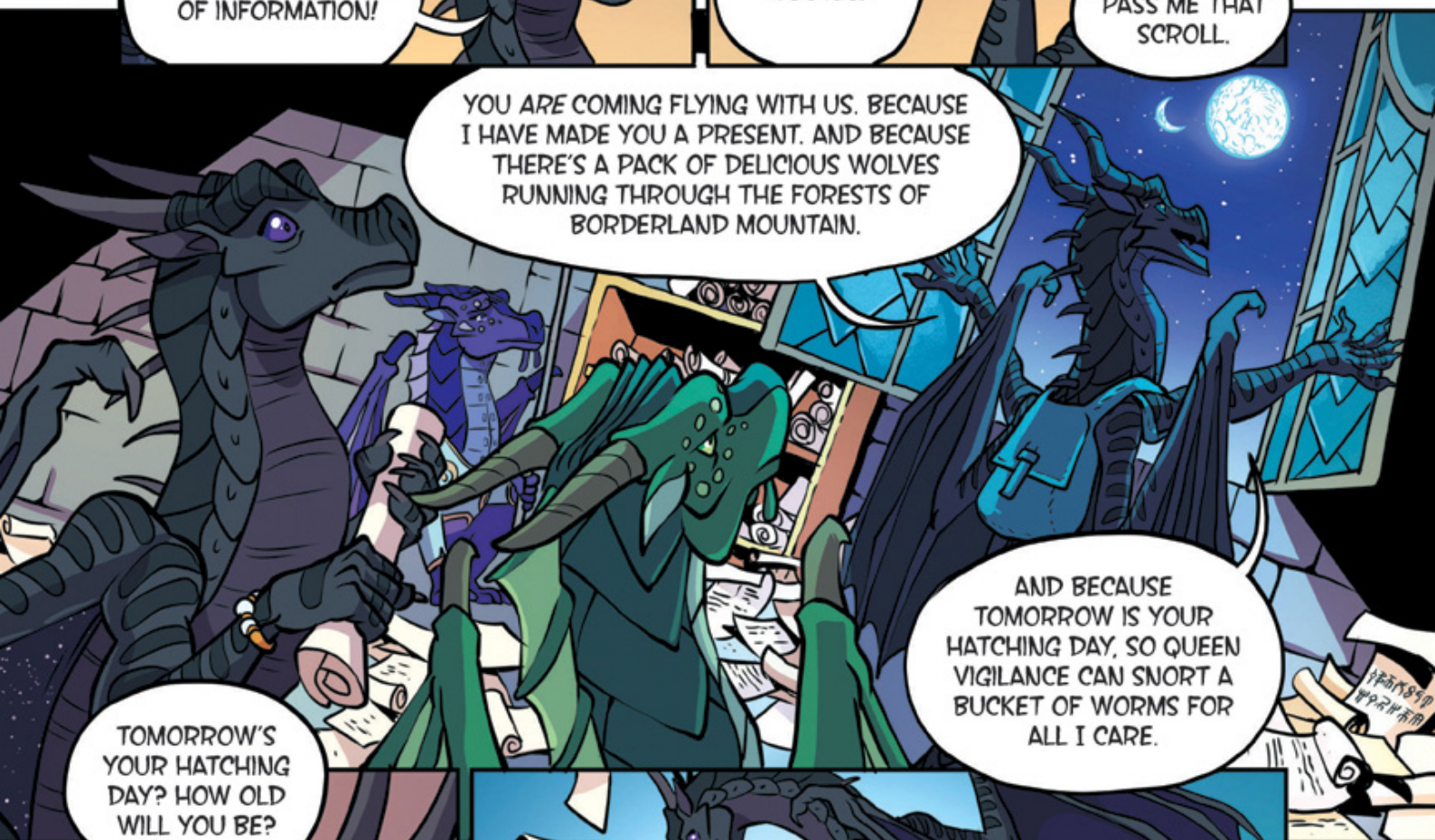
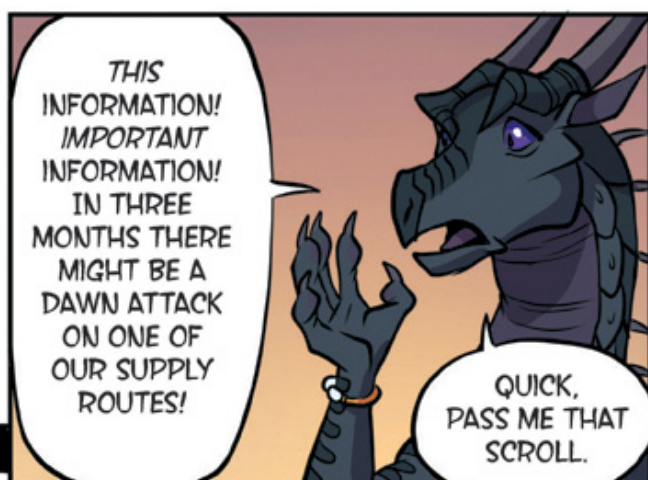
BUT EVERY TIME I'M RIGHT, QUEEN VIGILANCE WANTS MORE DETAILS.



HOW MANY DRAGONS IN THIS LOCATION EXACTLY...

WHAT TIME OF DAY WILL THEY ATTACK PRECISELY...

HOW MANY GRAINS OF SAND IN THE NEXT SANDSTORM.





LET'S
CELEBRATE!
LET'S FLY!

YOU LOON!



WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED TO
TELL THE
QUEEN?

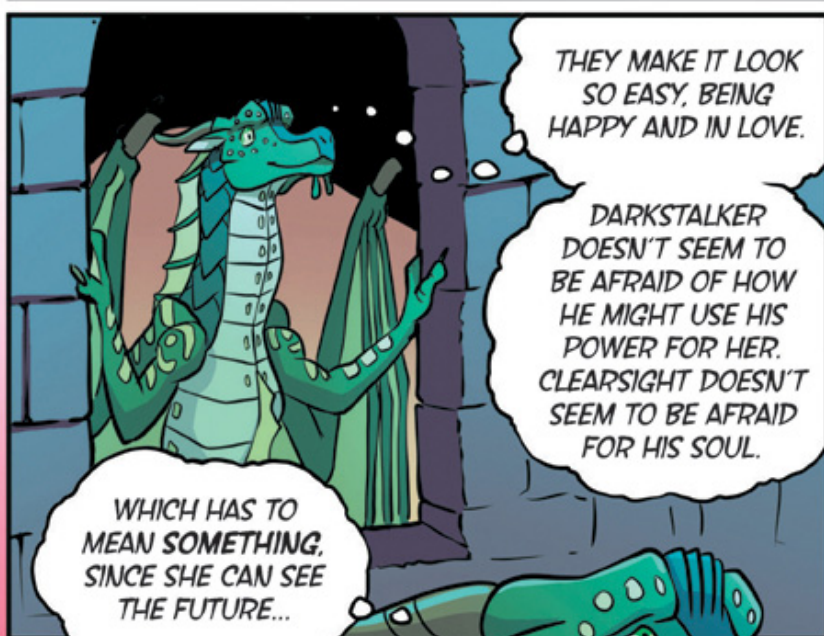
THAT I
LOVE YOU
AND SHE
CAN TALK
TO ME
ABOUT IT!



COME ON,
FATHOM!

ME? YOU
REALLY WANT ME
TO COME?

ENOUGH WITH THE
SELF-DOUBT! YOU'RE OUR
FRIEND, AND THE PRESENT
IS PARTLY FOR YOU.
SO LET'S GO!



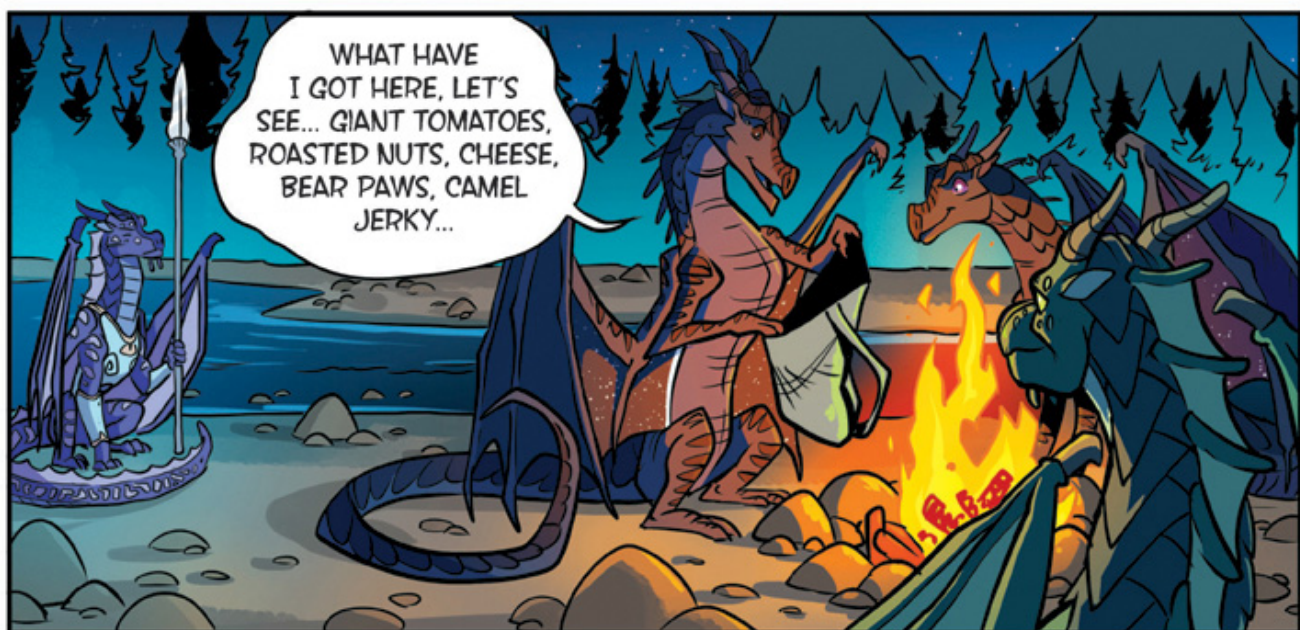
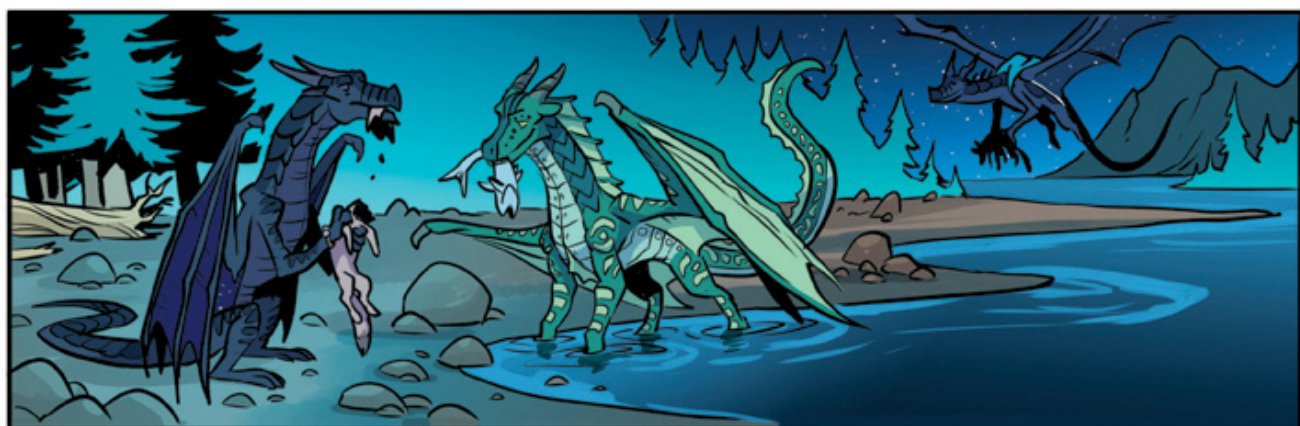
THEY MAKE IT LOOK
SO EASY, BEING
HAPPY AND IN LOVE.

DARKSTALKER
DOESN'T SEEM TO
BE AFRAID OF HOW
HE MIGHT USE HIS
POWER FOR HER.
CLEARSIGHT DOESN'T
SEEM TO BE AFRAID
FOR HIS SOUL.

WHICH HAS TO
MEAN **SOMETHING**,
SINCE SHE CAN SEE
THE FUTURE...

NO. I'M RIGHT TO WORRY.
DARKSTALKER SHOULD
WORRY MORE. THAT'S WHAT
I'M HERE TO TELL HIM, IF I
CAN EVER FIGURE OUT HOW
TO MAKE HIM LISTEN.





I BOUGHT THESE FROM A TRAVELING RAINWING PEDDLER.

I'VE HAD THIS ONE BEFORE. IT'S CALLED A KIWI. IT'S ALL TINGLY IN YOUR MOUTH.

OOO, DON'T EAT THAT ONE! IT'LL MAKE YOUR BREATH SMELL LIKE VULTURES FOR A WEEK.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT? A VISION?

EXPERIENCE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BOUGHT IT AGAIN!

I FORGOT WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE! ANYWAY, IT WAS DELICIOUS.

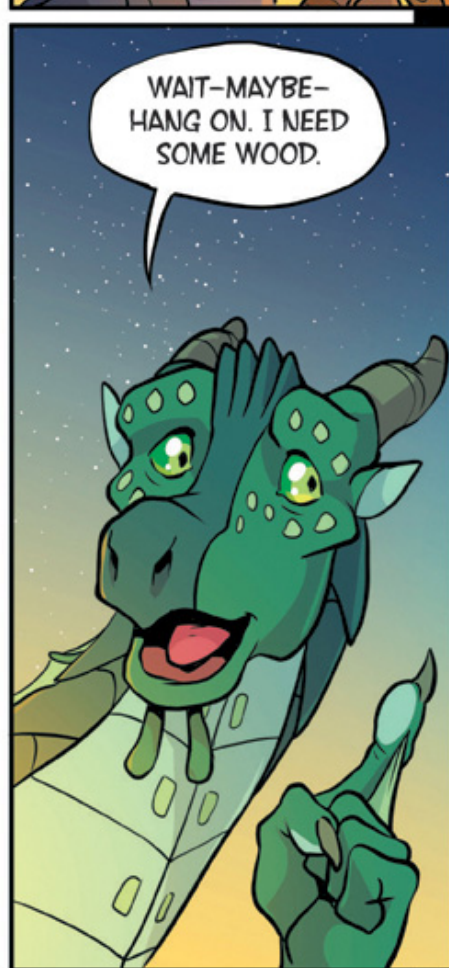
YOU CAN HAVE IT IF YOU PROMISE TO STAY AWAY FROM ME NEXT WEEK.

ACTUALLY, CONSIDERING HOW MUCH WORK I HAVE, SURE, GO AHEAD.

SPLASH

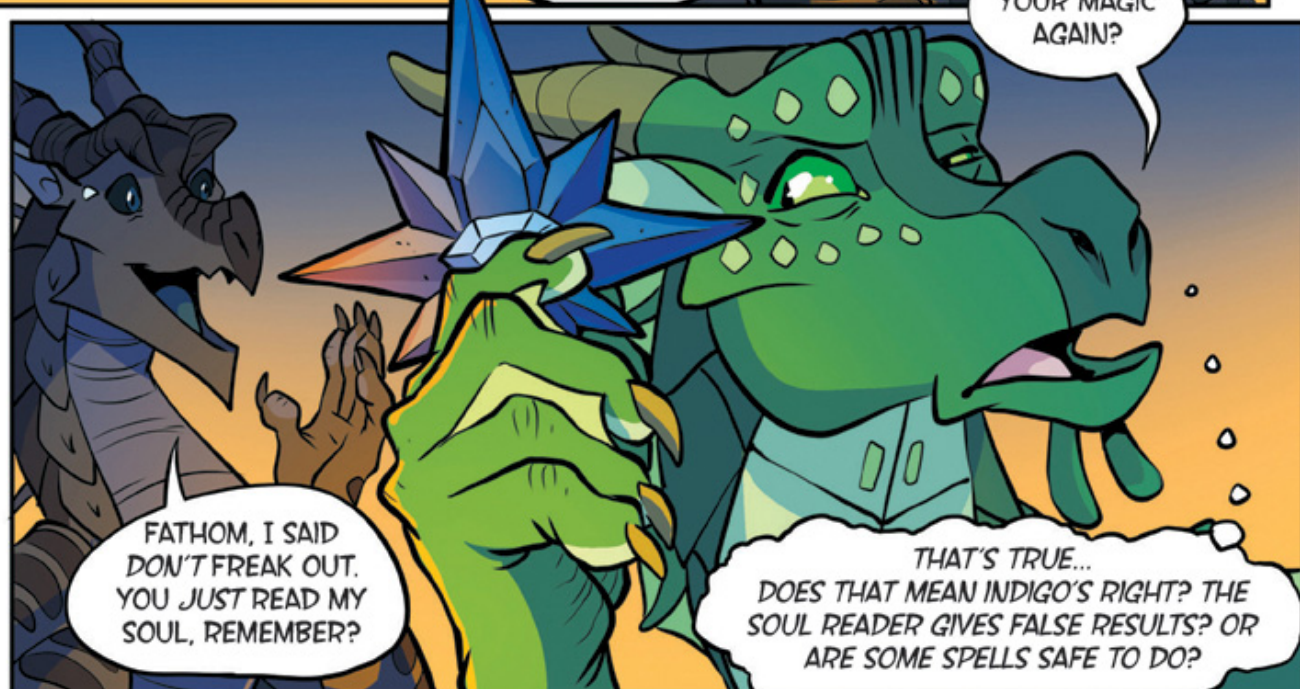
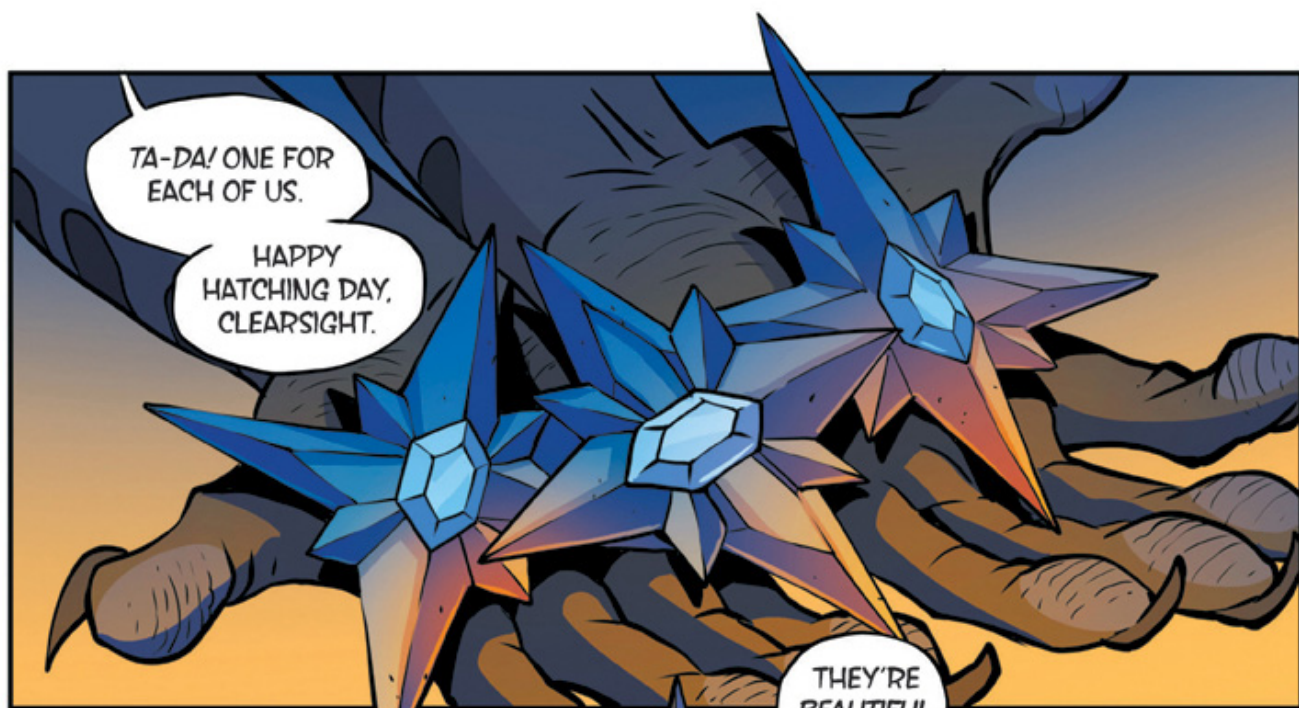
THERE. NOW SOME POOR UNSUSPECTING FISH WILL PROBABLY HAVE A TERRIBLE FIRST DATE BECAUSE OF YOU.

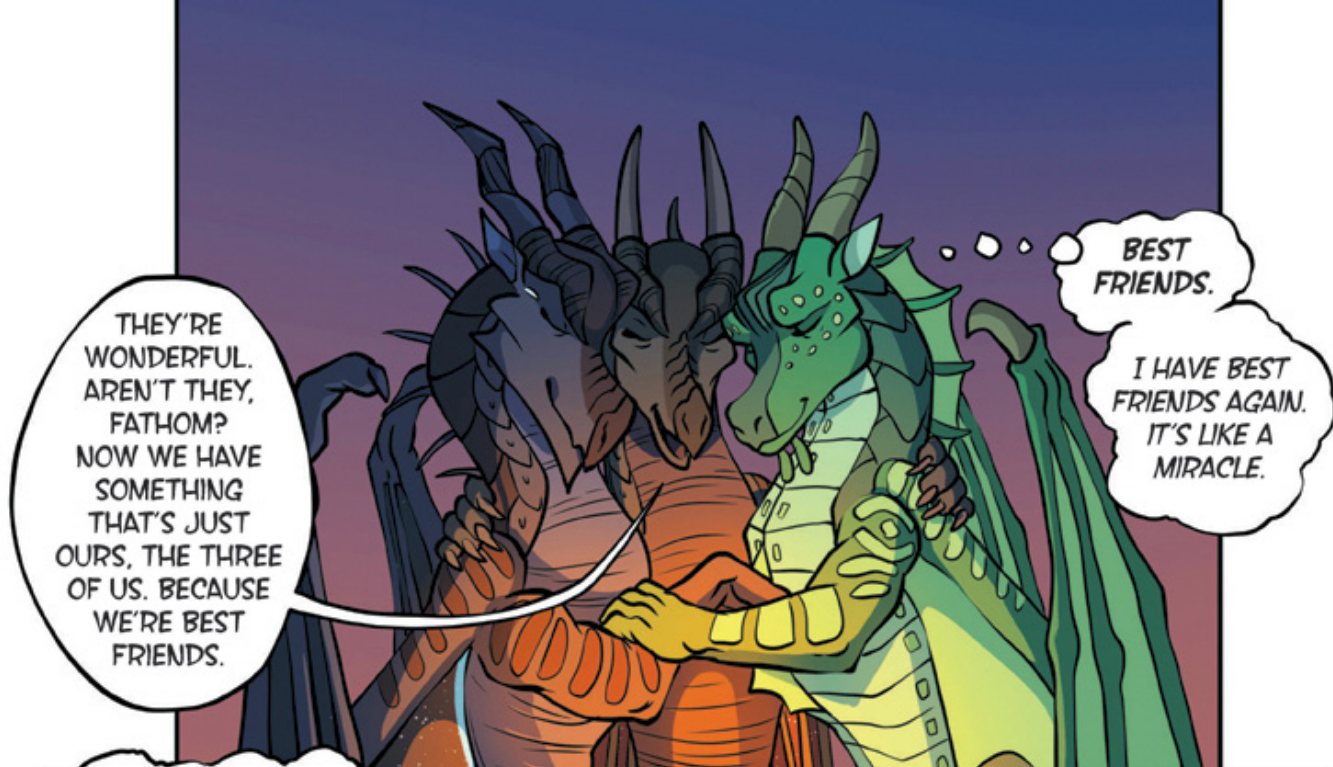
THANK YOU, HANDSOME.











THEY'RE WONDERFUL. AREN'T THEY, FATHOM? NOW WE HAVE SOMETHING THAT'S JUST OURS, THE THREE OF US. BECAUSE WE'RE BEST FRIENDS.

BEST FRIENDS.

I HAVE BEST FRIENDS AGAIN. IT'S LIKE A MIRACLE.



I WISH I COULD JUST TAKE THIS AND BE HAPPY, BUT— I SHOULD GIVE IT BACK AND BEG DARKSTALKER TO STOP USING HIS MAGIC. I SHOULD—

GASP!



CLEAR SIGHT? CLEAR SIGHT! WHAT IS IT? WHAT ARE YOU SEEING?

DARKSTALKER, IT'S YOUR MOTHER. FOESLAYER'S IN DANGER!



QUEEN DIAMOND— THERE'S A PLAN— WE HAVE TO FIND HER!

WE HAVE TO FIND FOESLAYER AND STOP WHAT'S HAPPENING OR EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE AWFUL. IT'S AWFUL WHAT HAPPENS TO HER. OH, NO. AND THEN TO EVERYONE.



DARKSTALKER

THEY SOARED SOUTH, DIVING TOWARD THE RAVINES. IT WAS THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, AND DRAGONS WERE EVERYWHERE, FILLING THE AIR WITH WINGBEATS. DARKSTALKER WISHED HE COULD HURL THEM ALL OUT OF HIS WAY.

IN MY VISION, SHE WAS IN THE KINGDOM OF SAND. SHE WAS SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF HER WING, SURROUNDED BY ICEWINGS. QUEEN DIAMOND WAS THERE.

BUT I DON'T KNOW WHEN THAT HAPPENS! IT FELT VERY SOON, BUT...

WHY DIDN'T I SEE IT BEFORE? SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED—IT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE. I'M SORRY, DARKSTALKER.

DON'T BE. WE'LL SAVE HER.

WE WILL SAVE HER. WON'T WE? WHY ISN'T CLEARSIGHT SAYING ANYTHING?

WHAT'S THE POINT OF CLEARSIGHT'S VISIONS IF THEY CAN'T EVEN SAVE THE DRAGONS WE LOVE?

HOW CAN ANYTHING BE HAPPENING TO MOTHER? SHE HAS THE EARRING FATHER GAVE HER WHEN THEY MET. IT SHOULD KEEP HER SAFE NO MATTER WHAT.

MOTHER'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE SENT BACK OUT TO THE FRONT FOR THREE DAYS. SHE WAS AT HOME THIS MORNING. LET'S TRY THERE FIRST.

AAAAAAAAWWWWOOOOOOOWWW!AAAAWOOOW!



WHAT IS THAT NOISE?

I DON'T KNOW. IT ISN'T MY PARENTS.

AAAAAAAAWWWWOOOWWWOOOWWW!AAAWWWWWOOOW!



WHAT IS WRONG WITH HER?

MAAA-AAAAA-A-A-A



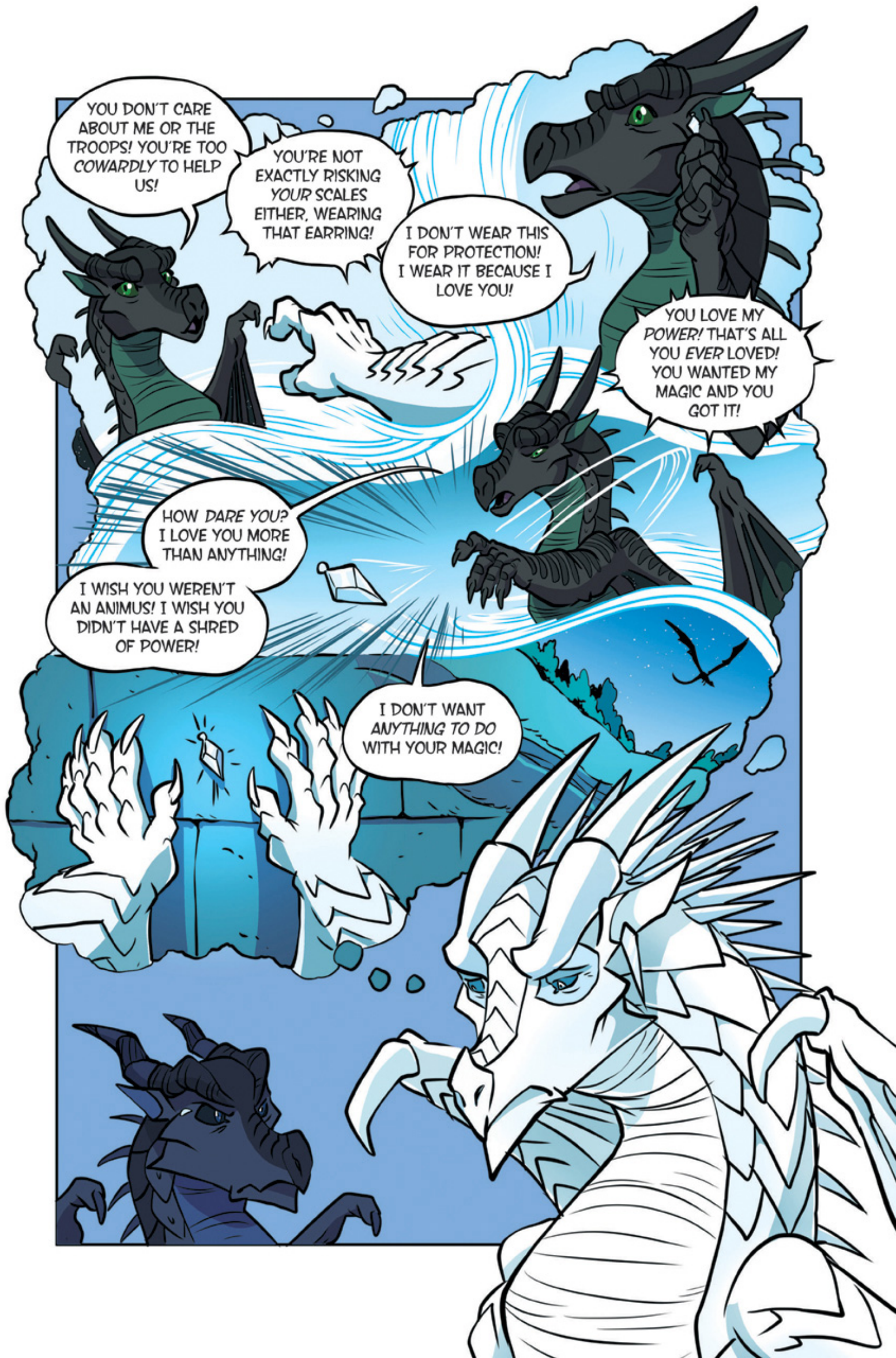
SHHH. I KNOW, I KNOW. IT'S AWFUL, I KNOW.

WHERE'S MOTHER?



HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

PICKED ANOTHER FIGHT WITH ME, AS USUAL. FLEW OFF IN A HUFF AROUND SUNSET.



YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ME OR THE TROOPS! YOU'RE TOO COWARDLY TO HELP US!

YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY RISKING YOUR SCALES EITHER, WEARING THAT EARRING!

I DON'T WEAR THIS FOR PROTECTION! I WEAR IT BECAUSE I LOVE YOU!

YOU LOVE MY POWER! THAT'S ALL YOU EVER LOVED! YOU WANTED MY MAGIC AND YOU GOT IT!

HOW DARE YOU? I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING!

I WISH YOU WEREN'T AN ANIMUS! I WISH YOU DIDN'T HAVE A SHRED OF POWER!

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOUR MAGIC!



YOU LET
HER FLY AWAY
WITHOUT HER
EARRING?

SHE WAS
ANGRY. SHE'LL
BE BACK FOR IT
SOON, WHEN SHE'S
READY TO ADMIT
SHE NEEDS IT.



NO, SHE
WON'T! DIAMOND
IS AFTER HER!

DO YOU KNOW
WHO HATES MOTHER
MORE THAN ANYONE?
YOUR MOTHER, WHO
HAPPENS TO BE AN
ANIMUS!

MY MOTHER
WOULDN'T USE HER
MAGIC! SHE SWORE TO
ONLY USE IT ONCE!

SHE'LL MAKE AN
EXCEPTION FOR
VENGEANCE.



IT'S A SUMMONING
SPELL, ISN'T IT? DIAMOND
PROBABLY PUT IT IN PLACE
YEARS AGO, BUT MOTHER
WAS PROTECTED BY THE
EARRING. UNTIL SHE TOOK
IT OFF—

THAT'S WHAT
SUDDENLY CHANGED.
THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T
SEE THIS COMING.

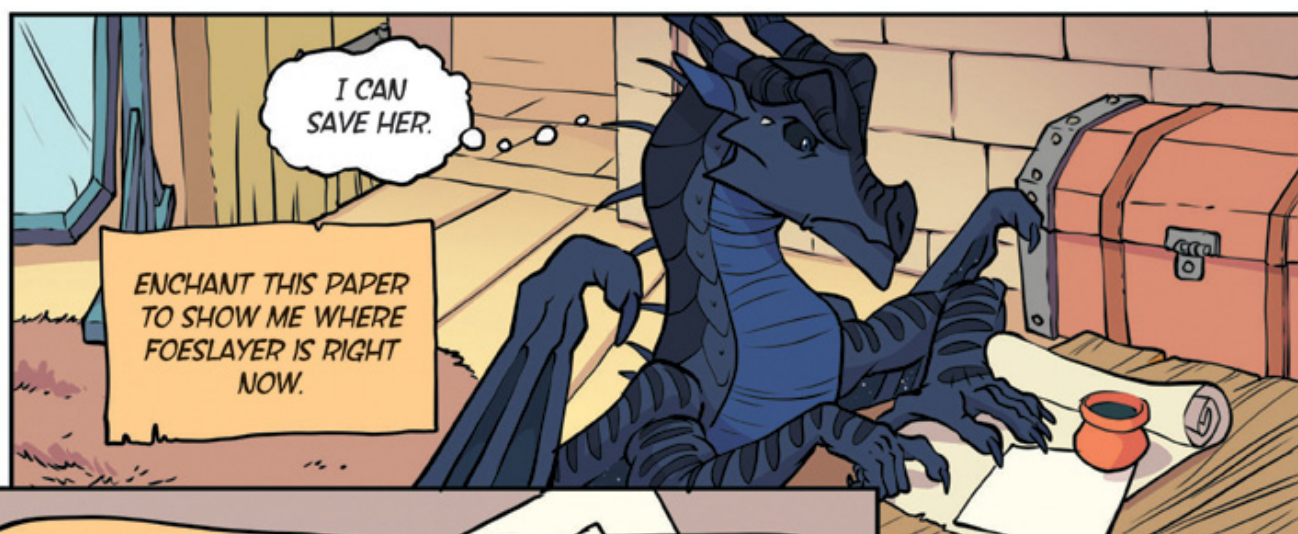


THIS IS
YOUR
FAULT.



DARKSTALKER,
I'M SO SORRY, BUT
IT'S TOO LATE—WHERE
ARE YOU GOING?

TO FIX
THIS.



A MAP BLOSSOMED IN INK ACROSS THE PAGE, SHOWING THE NIGHT KINGDOM, THE KINGDOM OF SAND, AND THE ICE KINGDOM. AND THERE, A SMALL RED DOT, MOVING ACROSS THE BORDER INTO SANDWING TERRITORY, AIMING STRAIGHT FOR AN ENCAMPMENT OF ICEWINGS.

COULD I DO THE SAME KIND OF SPELL AND SUMMON HER BACK?

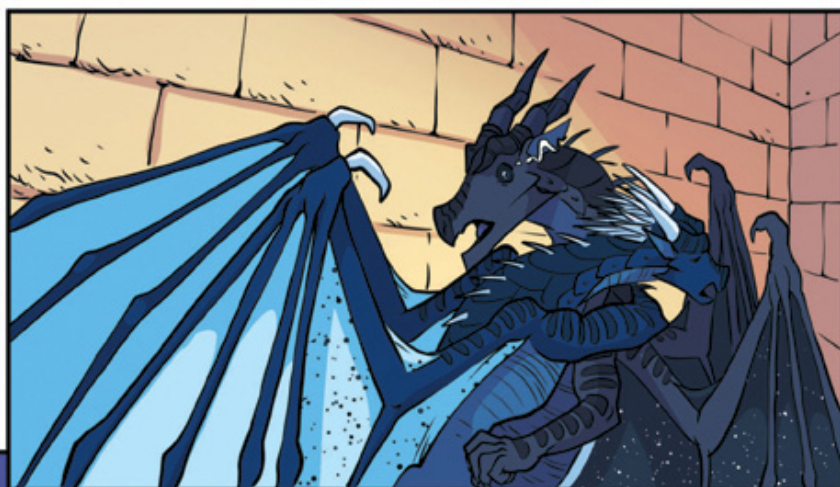
NO, DIAMOND'S SPELL MUST BE IRONCLAD. ONCE SHE HAS MOTHER, SHE'LL NEVER LET HER GO.

COULD I ENCHANT THE EARRING TO FLY TO HER?

NO, THERE'S NO WAY IT WOULD GET TO HER IN TIME.

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST KILL DIAMOND. I COULD SEND SOMETHING TO DO IT RIGHT NOW.

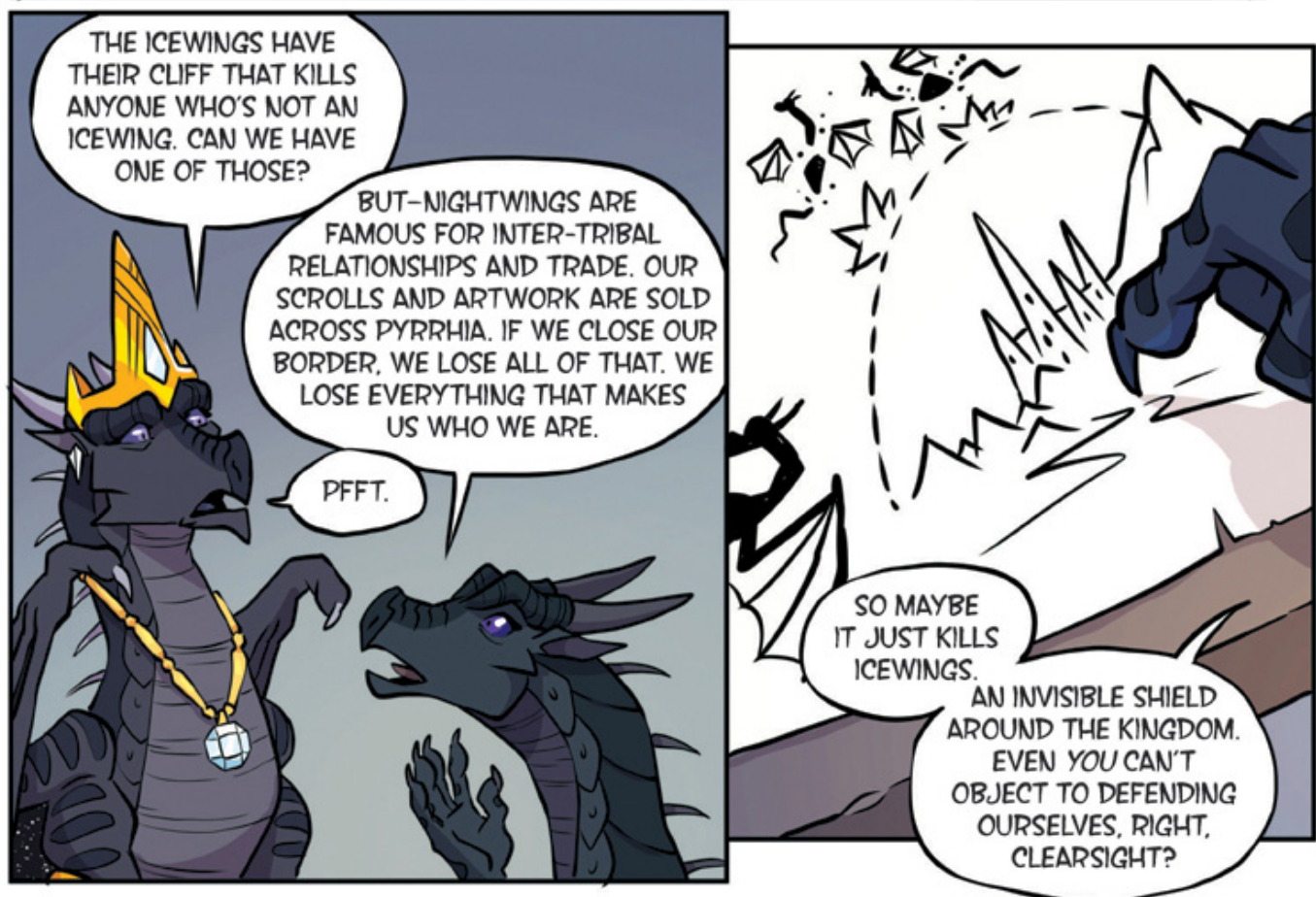
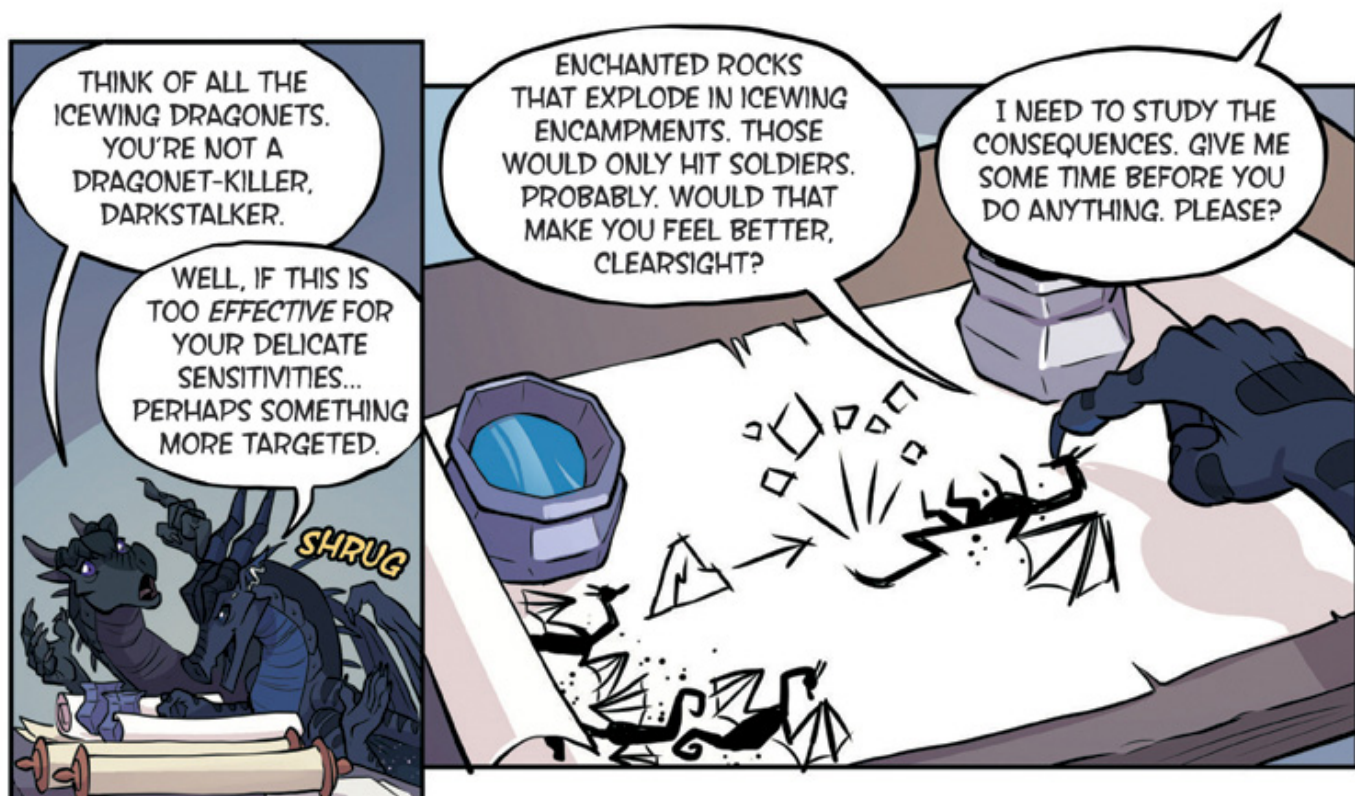




CLEAR SIGHT

CLEAR SIGHT KNEW DARKSTALKER LOVED ONLY THREE DRAGONS: HER, WHITEOUT, AND FOESLAYER. HE HID THE PAIN OF LOSING FOESLAYER BEHIND A CAVALIER SMILE, BUT SHE KNEW HE WAS BOTH DEVASTATED AND FURIOUS WITH THE ICEWINGS—WHICH MADE IT ALL THE MORE WORRYING WHEN QUEEN VIGILANCE SUMMONED HIM TO DISCUSS USING ANIMUS MAGIC IN THE WAR.









ACCORDING TO MY MAP,
SHE'S DEEP IN THE ICE
KINGDOM. HER DOT HASN'T
MOVED FOR TWO DAYS.

YES, I KNOW.
IT COULD BE WHERE
THEY BURIED HER.



I COULD USE MAGIC
TO FIND OUT FOR SURE,
BUT IF IT'S TRUE... I DON'T
WANT TO KNOW.

I'M SORRY, MY LOVE.
I KNOW IT HURTS SO
MUCH. BUT YOU HAVE
TO FIGHT THE ANGER
AND DARKNESS.



DARKSTALKER, I'M SO
SCARED. THE THINGS
I'VE SEEN IN THE FUTURE
AFTER THIS—WHAT YOU
DO, WHAT YOU BECOME—
I'M AFRAID WE'RE LOSING
OUR BRIGHT PATHS...

STOP.



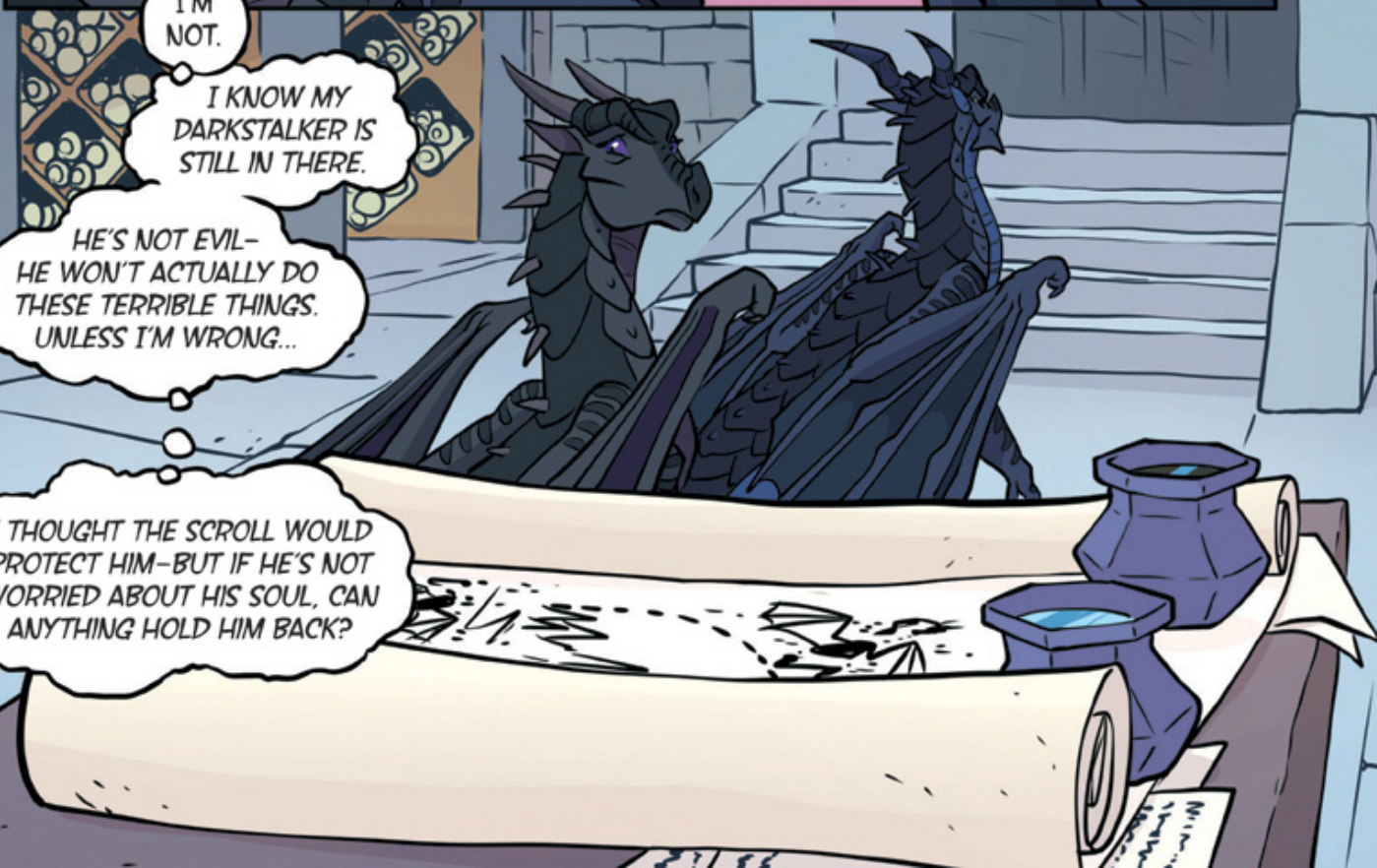
KEEP LOOKING AT
OUR HAPPY FUTURES. IF WE
FOCUS, WE'LL GET THERE.
I PROMISE.

DON'T GIVE
UP ON ME,
CLEARSIGHT.

I'M
NOT.

I KNOW MY
DARKSTALKER IS
STILL IN THERE.

HE'S NOT EVIL—
HE WON'T ACTUALLY DO
THESE TERRIBLE THINGS.
UNLESS I'M WRONG...



I THOUGHT THE SCROLL WOULD
PROTECT HIM—BUT IF HE'S NOT
WORRIED ABOUT HIS SOUL, CAN
ANYTHING HOLD HIM BACK?

FATHOM

WEEKS HAD PASSED SINCE LOSING FOESLAYER, AND DARKSTALKER SEEMED TO BE TRAPPED IN AN ANGRY MOURNING WHERE HE KEPT INSISTING SHE WOULD BE HOME SOON. FATHOM HAD FINALLY FINISHED CARVING THE SEAWING FIGURE FOR DARKSTALKER, HOPING IT WOULD CHEER UP HIS FRIEND. THE LITTLE STATUE HAD AN INTELLIGENT EXPRESSION THAT MADE IT LOOK UNMISTAKABLY LIKE INDIGO. FATHOM WORRIED HIS FRIEND WOULDN'T WANT A CARVING THAT LOOKED SO MUCH LIKE A DRAGON HE DIDN'T LIKE, BUT DARKSTALKER SEEMED DELIGHTED WITH IT.

THIS IS SO COOL!
THANKS, FATHOM.

YOU SEEM
HAPPIER TODAY.

I AM. I'M FINALLY
DOING SOMETHING ABOUT
ALL MY MOST ANNOYING
PROBLEMS. I MEAN, I'M
PYRRHIA'S MOST POWERFUL
DRAGON, AREN'T I? I
SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY
PROBLEMS.

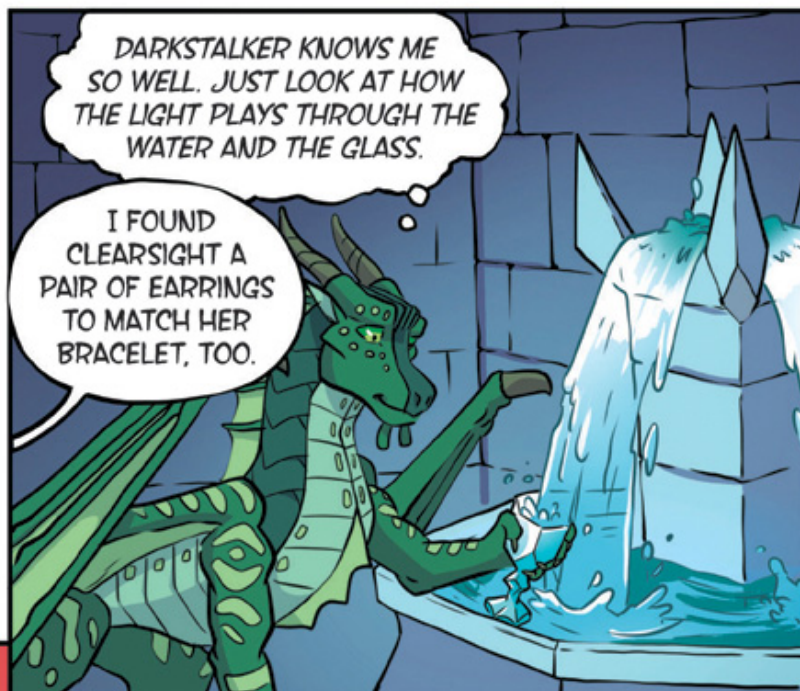
I GOT
SOMETHING FOR
YOU, TOO.

I SAW THIS IN
THE MARKET AND
IT MADE ME THINK
OF YOU.

WOW.
THANK
YOU.

DARKSTALKER KNOWS ME SO WELL. JUST LOOK AT HOW THE LIGHT PLAYS THROUGH THE WATER AND THE GLASS.

I FOUND CLEARSIGHT A PAIR OF EARRINGS TO MATCH HER BRACELET, TOO.



WHY DID YOU DO THAT?



I SAW THE WAY YOU WERE WATCHING HIM! THERE WAS A SPELL ON THAT CUP! WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO DO TO FATHOM?









FATHOM,
I'M SORRY. YOU WERE RIGHT.
I DON'T FEEL SAFE HERE.
IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK. I DON'T
I'M GOING HOME.
PLEASE DON'T USE YOUR MAGIC TO FIND ME.
GOOD LUCK.
INDIGO



I DON'T... WHAT?
LOVE YOU? WANT TO BE
WITH YOU? TRUST YOU
ANYMORE?

HOW COULD SHE
LEAVE LIKE THIS?
WITHOUT SAYING
GOOD-BYE?



SORRY, FATHOM.
SHE WAS A REALLY
GREAT BODYGUARD.



ACTUALLY...
WOULD YOU MIND
IF I KEEP THIS?

OH, UH—

OF COURSE,
IF THAT'S WHAT
YOU WANT.



MAYBE INDIGO
MADE THE RIGHT
CHOICE. SHE CAN
HAVE A GREAT LIFE
NOW. SAFE FROM
ME. SAFE FROM
ANIMUS MAGIC
FOREVER.

CLEAR SIGHT

A MONTH LATER, HUNDREDS OF LANTERNS HAD BEEN HUNG IN THE GREAT DIAMOND FOR THE QUEEN'S GLASS JUBILEE. FROM ABOVE, THEY DAPPLED THE ENORMOUS CROWD LIKE A SWARM OF FIREFLIES. COLD AIR CRACKLED WITH THE SIZZLING SCENTS OF MEAT, ONIONS, AND FRIED BANANAS. ELABORATE GLASS SCULPTURES GLOWED IN THE LAMPLIGHT—TWISTING SPIRALS, WEAVING TENDRILS, DELICATE BEADS AND TOWERING TREES AND CLUSTERS OF CAPTURED FIREWORKS—IN EVERY COLOR OF A RAINWING'S SCALES.

THIS IS GOING TO BE THE BEST NIGHT EVER!

IT'S JUST ANOTHER PARTY. THEY'RE KIND OF EXHAUSTING, ACTUALLY.

OH, YOU *POOR* THING, LIVING IN THE PALACE, EATING TRUFFLES, BURDENED WITH PILES OF JEWELS AND NECKLACES.

HEY, I LET YOU BORROW MY OPALS, DIDN'T I?

YES! AND THANK YOU!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE NOT WEARING THEM YOURSELF. MOONSTONES AGAIN? HAVE YOU EVEN TAKEN OFF THOSE EARRINGS SINCE HE GAVE THEM TO YOU?

COME ON, IT WAS SO SWEET OF HIM TO MATCH MY BRACELET.

AND I STILL FEEL GUILTY FOR ASKING IF THEY HAD SPELLS ON THEM. HE LOOKED SO HURT. AND WHEN I CHECKED THE SCROLL THERE WAS NOTHING... I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO SUSPICIOUS.

WELL, ANYWAY, THOUGHTFUL IS GOING TO LOVE THESE.

WAIT, WHO'S THOUGHTFUL?

THE DRAGON I'M GOING TO MARRY. FIX YOUR FACE!

I'M NOT MAKING A FACE! ZERO VISIONS, I PROMISE!



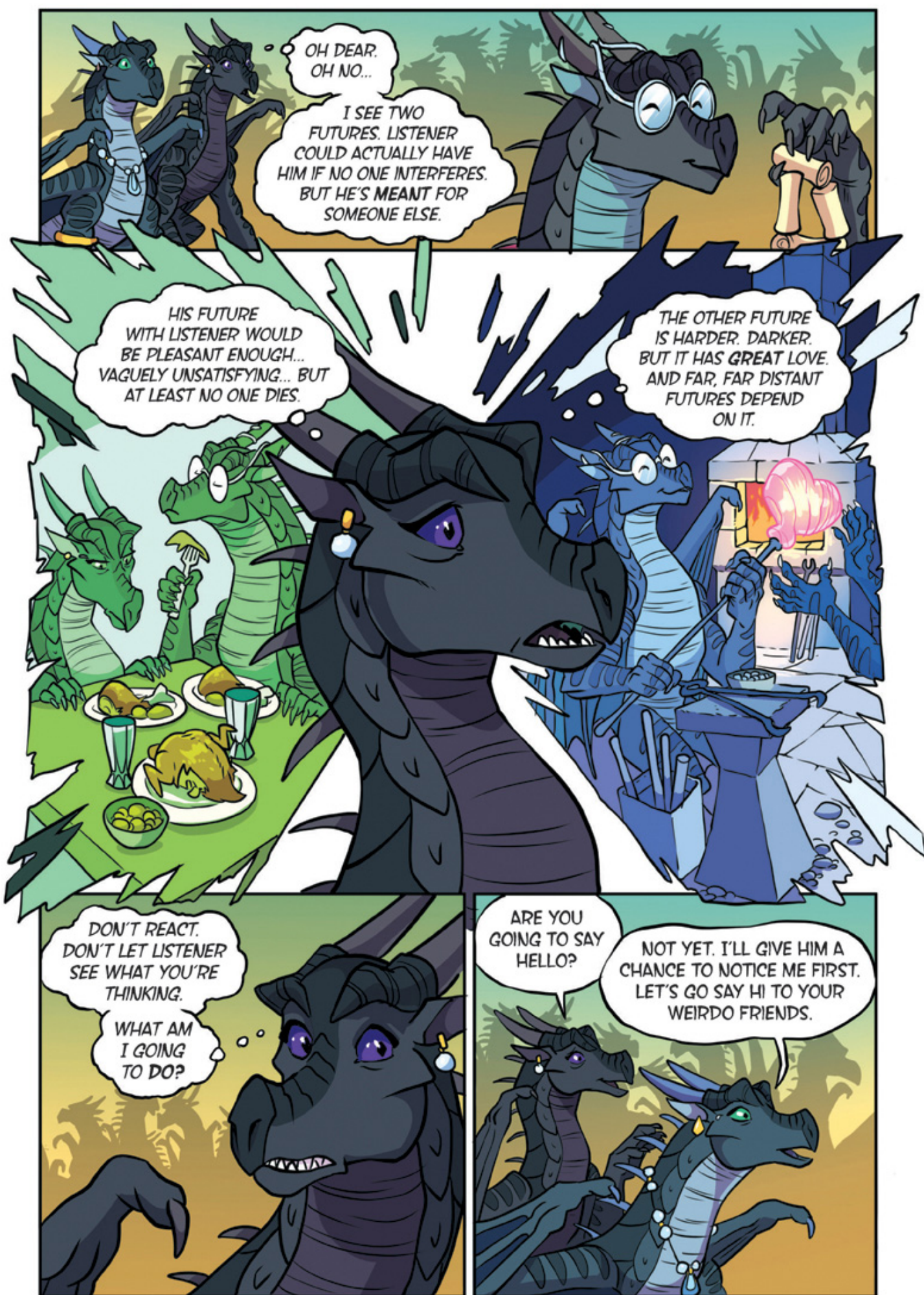
AREN'T WE A
BIT YOUNG FOR
MARRIAGE PLANS?

IT'S A LONG-TERM
PLAN. WE'RE IN
THE GROUNDWORK
PHASE!

LISTENER, HAVE
YOU EVER ACTUALLY
SPOKEN TO HIM?

YES!





OH DEAR.
OH NO...

I SEE TWO
FUTURES. LISTENER
COULD ACTUALLY HAVE
HIM IF NO ONE INTERFERES.
BUT HE'S MEANT FOR
SOMEONE ELSE.

HIS FUTURE
WITH LISTENER WOULD
BE PLEASANT ENOUGH...
VAGUELY UNSATISFYING... BUT
AT LEAST NO ONE DIES.

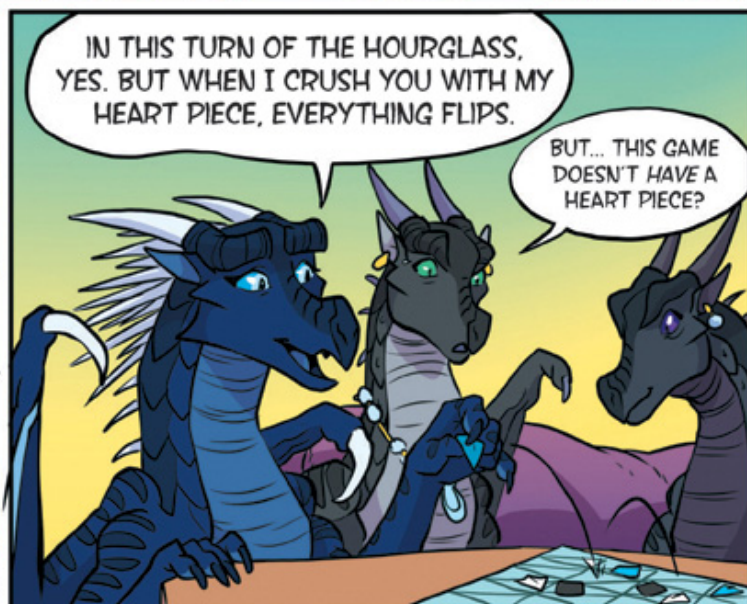
THE OTHER FUTURE
IS HARDER. DARKER.
BUT IT HAS **GREAT LOVE**.
AND FAR, FAR DISTANT
FUTURES DEPEND
ON IT.

DON'T REACT.
DON'T LET LISTENER
SEE WHAT YOU'RE
THINKING.

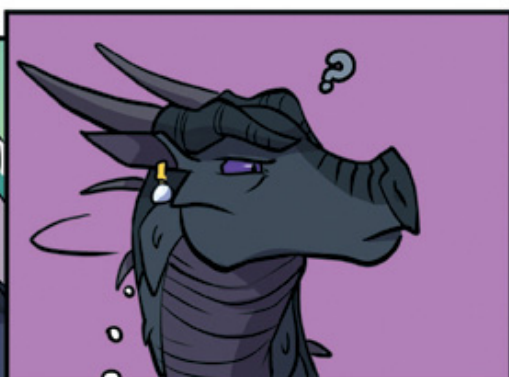
WHAT AM
I GOING
TO DO?

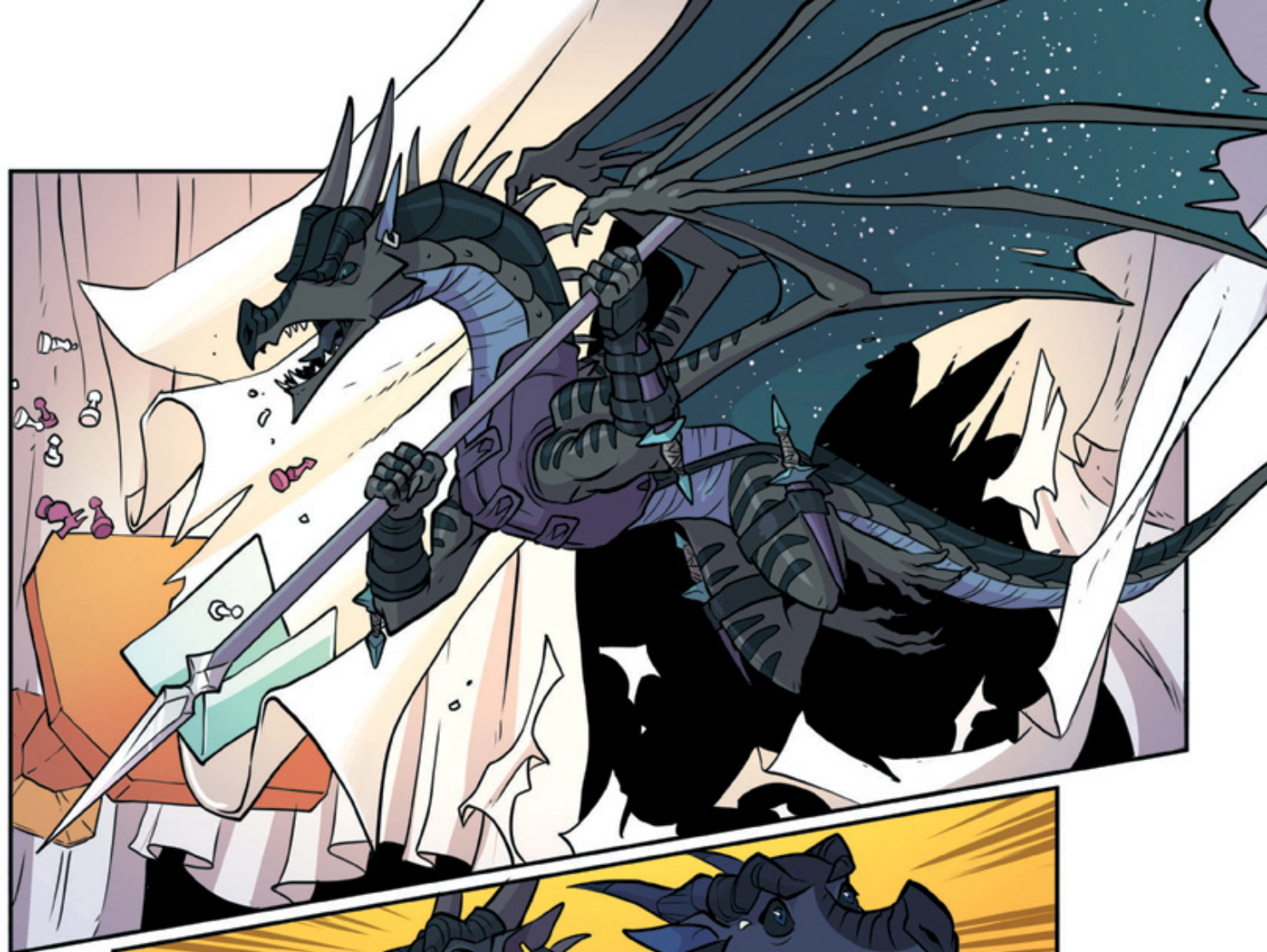
ARE YOU
GOING TO SAY
HELLO?

NOT YET. I'LL GIVE HIM A
CHANCE TO NOTICE ME FIRST.
LET'S GO SAY HI TO YOUR
WEIRDO FRIENDS.









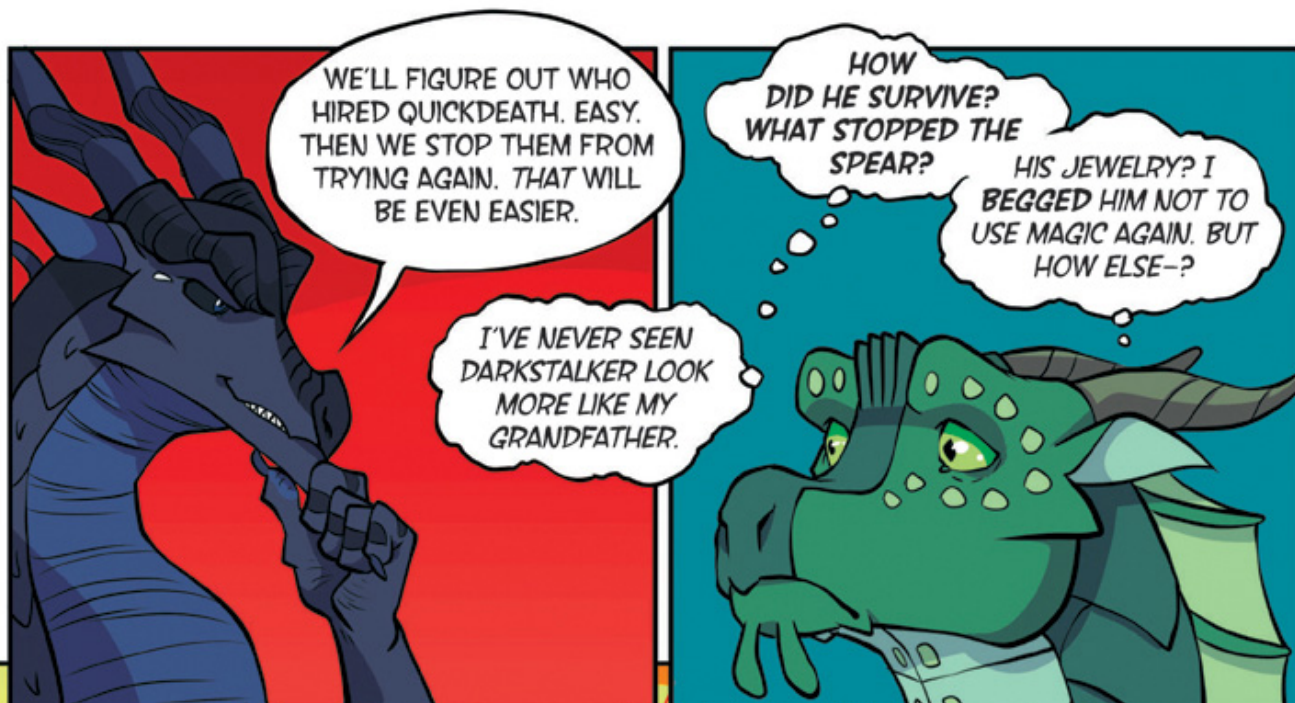
FATHOM

FATHOM SAW A BOLT OF STEEL FLASHING PAST; HE HEARD CURTAINS RIP AND LISTENER SCREAMING AND IVORY PIECES CASCADING ACROSS THE WOOD FLOOR. HE SAW DARKSTALKER STAGGER BACK, LOOKING STRICKEN.









THE CROWD OF WATCHING DRAGONS PARTED TO LET THEM GO, WHISPERING ABOUT DARKSTALKER. FATHOM AND HIS FRIENDS FLEW BACK TO HIS ROOM IN THE PALACE, WHERE LIONFISH WENT INSIDE FIRST TO MAKE SURE IT WAS SAFE.







IS THERE A LITTLE MORE WHITE SAND NOW?

IF THERE'S A DIFFERENCE, IT'S NOT MUCH. THE BLACK STILL OUTWEIGHS THE WHITE. AM I BEING PARANOID?



SEE? NOW CAN WE GET ON WITH TRACKING MY KILLER BEFORE HE TRIES AGAIN?

YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHO IT WAS.

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? HE'S WANTED ME DEAD SINCE THE MOMENT I HATCHED.



I DID SEE YOUR FATHER THERE.

I KNOW. I HEARD HIS BRAIN MUTTERING.



YOUR FATHER? THEN WHY DIDN'T HE MAKE SURE YOU WERE ALL RIGHT-OR TRY TO STOP QUICKDEATH?

BECAUSE HE HIRED QUICKDEATH. YOU'RE REALLY SLOWING THIS CONVERSATION DOWN, FATHOM.



MAYBE IT WASN'T ARCTIC. DID YOU HEAR HIM THINKING ABOUT KILLING YOU?

NO MORE THAN USUAL. MOSTLY HE WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW MUCH HE HATED THE WAY WHITEOUT WAS LOOKING AT THOUGHTFUL.

WE CAN BE SURE IF I DO A SPELL TO FIND OUT.



NO! NOT WITH MAGIC. PLEASE, DARKSTALKER. THINK ABOUT YOUR SOUL. CLEARSIGHT, YOU AGREE, DON'T YOU?

DARKSTALKER... YOU SHOULD TELL HIM ABOUT YOUR SCROLL.



I SHOULD PUT THIS AWAY...

REALLY?

AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, YOU SHOW IT TO HIM IN ALL THE GOOD TIMELINES.



AND THE BAD.

HE'S NOT THE ONE WHO TURNS THEM BAD.

OH, THANKS A LOT.

...IS THAT BLOB?



WHY IS BLOB STILL HERE?

DID INDIGO LEAVE HIM BECAUSE I MADE HIM FOR HER? BUT... SHE LOVED BLOB, DIDN'T SHE?

WHAT AM I MISSING?



FATHOM, PAY ATTENTION. I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING TOTALLY MOMENTOUS. IT'LL CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

TRUST ME.

DARKSTALKER

DARKSTALKER HAD EXPECTED FATHOM TO BE EXCITED ABOUT THE SCROLL, MAYBE EVEN MAKE HIS OWN RIGHT THEN AND THERE. BUT NO. IT STILL WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH. ACCORDING TO FATHOM, "THE ONLY SAFE PATH IS GIVING UP MAGIC COMPLETELY." WHATEVER. IF FATHOM DIDN'T WANT TO LISTEN, THAT WAS HIS PROBLEM. DARKSTALKER'S PROBLEM WAS THAT SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO KILL HIM.

FATHER MIGHT BE THE ONLY DRAGON IN PYRRHIA WHO COULD ACTUALLY KILL ME. NOW THAT HE KNOWS I'M PROTECTED, HE'LL PLAN MORE CAREFULLY.

HE SHOULD HAVE USED HIS MAGIC TO DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME. SO WHY DIDN'T HE?

HE'S TRYING TO HIDE THAT HE'S THE ONE RESPONSIBLE.



GOOD MORNING. DREAMING OF YOUR NEW ADMIRER?

YES AND NO.

DO YOU WANT ME TO FORESEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH YOU TWO?

NO, THANK YOU.

NO, THANK YOU? WHAT A WEIRDLY... ORDINARY RESPONSE.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I FEEL FUNNY. ALL MY WORDS ARE COMING OUT WRONG.

ACTUALLY, IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE COMING OUT RIGHT FOR ONCE. WHICH IS... WORRYING. I WISH I COULD READ HER MIND AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE.

MAYBE YOU JUST NEED SOME SLEEP. I'M HEADED IN TO SEE FATHER.



I'M ALIVE. IN CASE YOU WERE WORRIED.

CAN'T SAY I WAS.

I KNOW YOU WERE THERE. AT THE PAVILION. WATCHING.

INDEED. CARE TO EXPLAIN HOW THAT SPEAR BOUNCED OFF YOUR SCALES?

THIS ONE GETS MORE DANGEROUS ALL THE TIME.



DID YOU KNOW THE DRAGON WHO ATTACKED ME?

I'VE SEEN HIM AROUND COURT, BUT NEVER SPOKEN TO HIM.

MAYBE I SHOULD DO WHAT MOTHER WANTS.



...DID HE REALLY NOT KNOW QUICKDEATH? OR HAS HE FINALLY MANAGED TO SHIELD SOME OF HIS THOUGHTS?

WHY DO YOU THINK HE TRIED TO KILL ME?



WHAT DOES IT MATTER? HE'S DEAD NOW.

IDIOT. HE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN AN ANIMUS WOULD BE PROTECTED.



YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.

WHAT DOES "YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT" MEAN? WHAT'S DARKSTALKER HIDING?

I'D BETTER ACT SOON BEFORE ANYONE CAN STOP ME.



HIS THOUGHTS
WEREN'T WHAT
I EXPECTED.

MAYBE FATHER DIDN'T
HIRE QUICKDEATH, BUT IT
CERTAINLY SOUNDS LIKE
HE'S PLANNING TO KILL ME
EVENTUALLY.



WHO BESIDES
ARCTIC WANTS
ME DEAD?

INDIGO, BUT THAT
PROBLEM IS TAKEN CARE OF.
DRAGONS WHO TRY TO KILL
ME DON'T FARE TOO WELL,
DO THEY, SEAWING?



I NEED TO KNOW WHO DID THIS
NOW. SOMEONE'S TRYING TO DERAIL
ALL MY GLORIOUS FUTURES. THEY
NEED TO BE PUNISHED.

I AM THE MOST
POWERFUL DRAGON IN
PYRRHIA, AND NO ONE
CAN THREATEN ME.



ENCHANT THIS
PARCHMENT TO REVEAL
THE NAME OF THE DRAGON
WHO HIRED QUICKDEATH
TO KILL ME TONIGHT

OH, THERE ARE
DEFINITELY
GOING TO BE
CONSEQUENCES.

NOW I
KNOW WHO
HAS TO PAY.

CLEAR SIGHT

CLEAR SIGHT SLEPT VERY POORLY, TROUBLED BY NIGHTMARES OF HORRIBLE FUTURES—BETRAYALS AND MURDERS AND WARS WITHOUT END. IT SEEMED AS THOUGH ALL HER WORST POSSIBLE VISIONS WERE CROWDING HER HEAD AT ONCE.

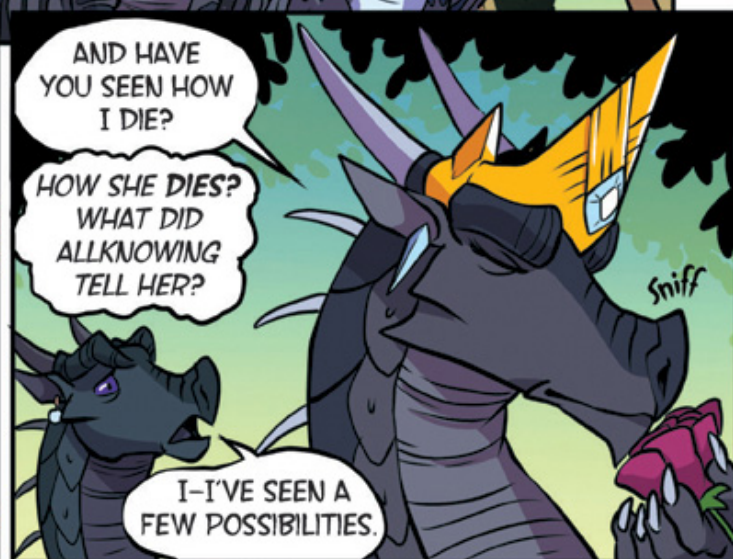
I SLEPT SO BADLY, MY EARRINGS CAME LOOSE IN THE NIGHT. GLAD THEY DIDN'T FALL OFF ENTIRELY.

SUCH A HEADACHE.

DREAMS ARE JUST DREAMS, CLEAR SIGHT.

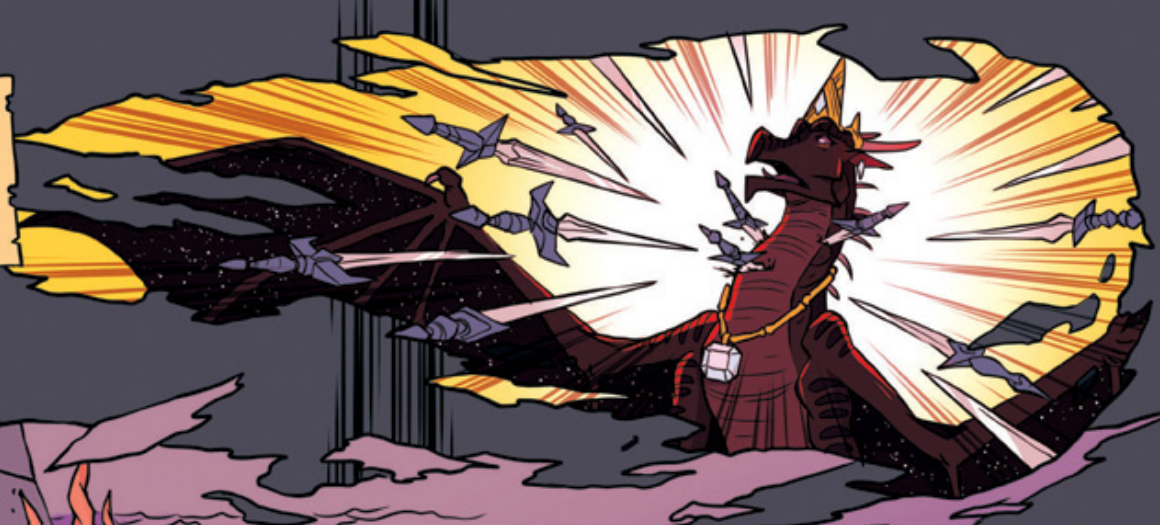
IS THAT—
ALLKNOWING?
WHY IS SHE WITH
THE QUEEN?

I'LL TAKE THE STAIRS
INSTEAD OF FLYING—I
SHOULDN'T LOOK LIKE I'M
SWOOPING DOWN ON A
PRIVATE CONVERSATION.

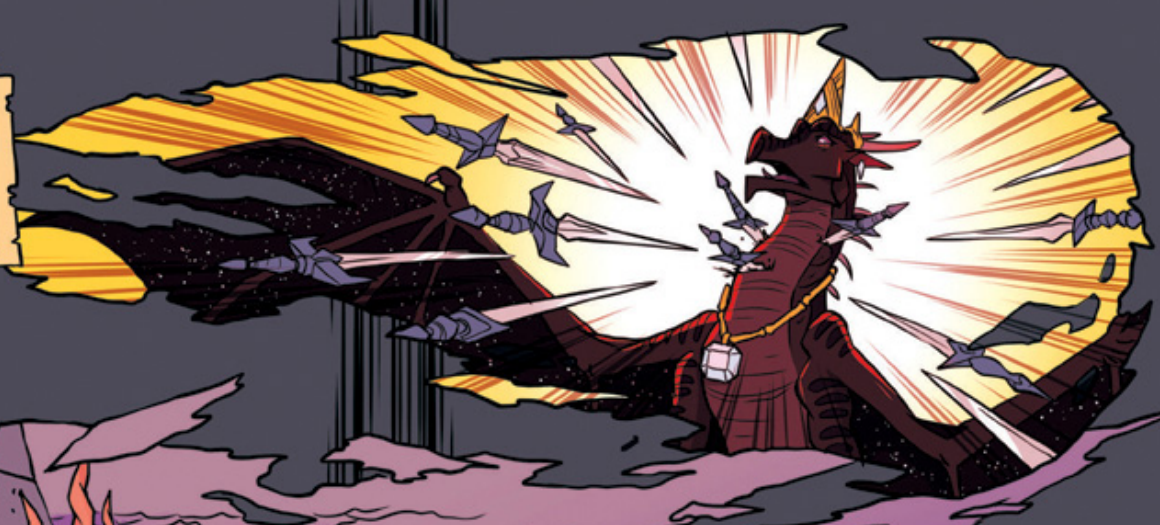




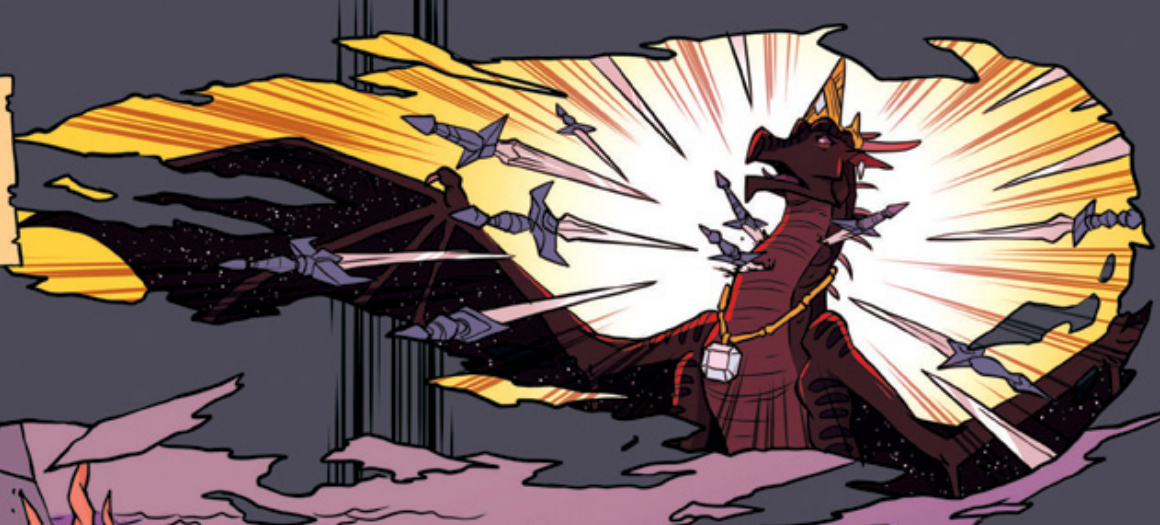




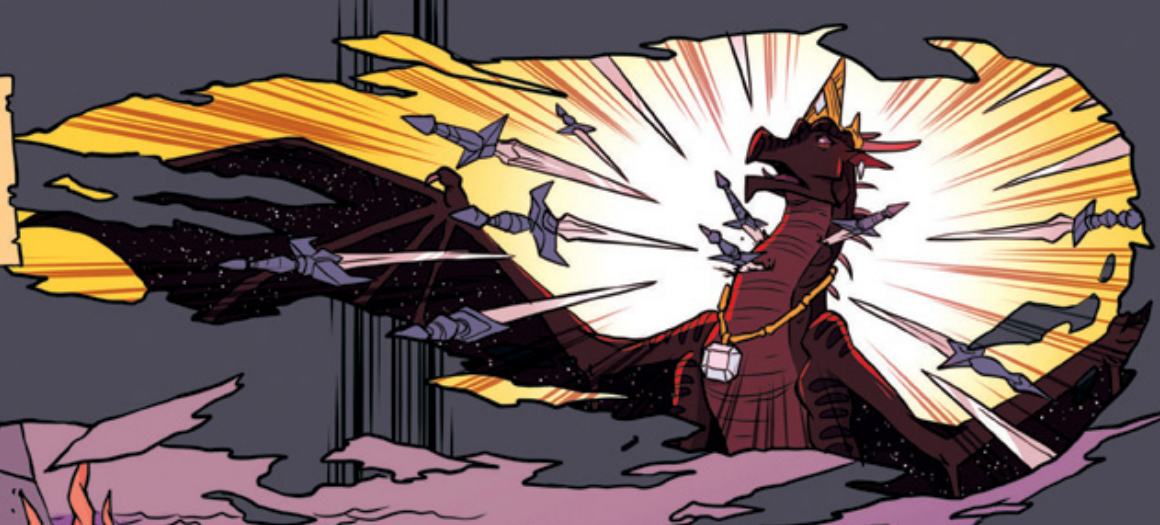
AND VISIONS
RUSHED IN,
VISIONS UPON
VISIONS UPON
VISIONS.



ALL THE DARKNESS
SHE'D EVER SEEN
BUT WORSE AND
WORSE AND WORSE
AND WORSE.



THESE WEREN'T
VISIONS OF THE DISTANT
FUTURE EITHER. THESE
WERE ABOUT TO HAPPEN
NOW. THE TIPPING POINT
WAS TREMBLING ON A
KNIFE'S EDGE.



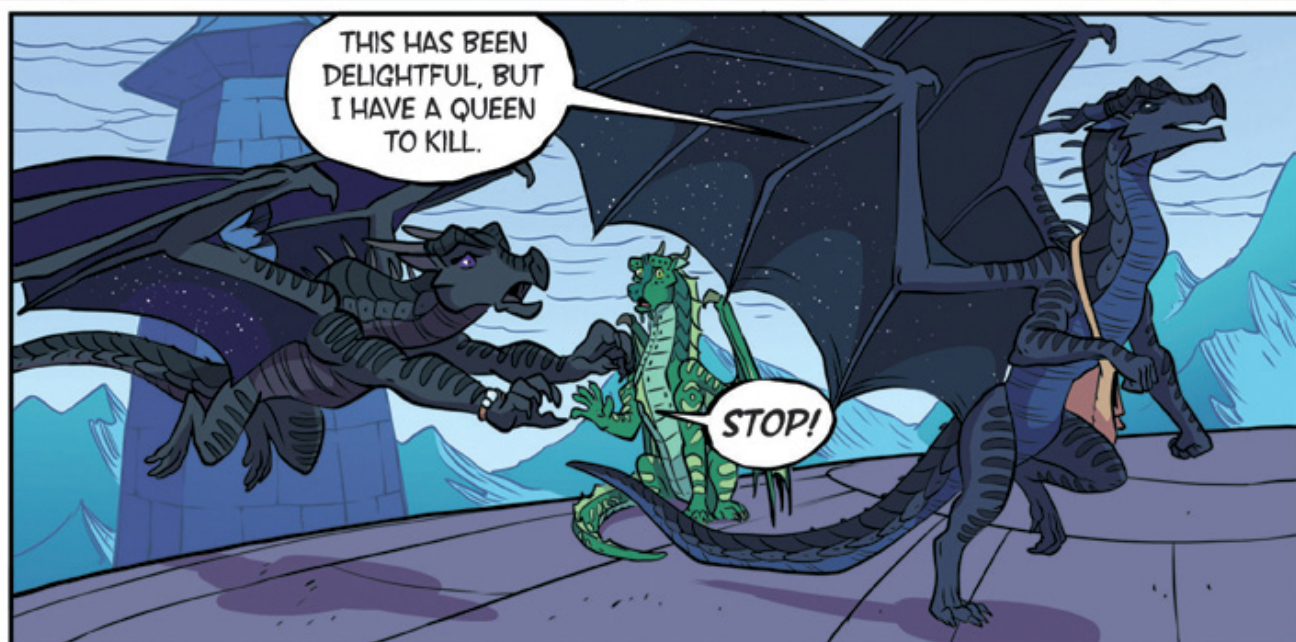
IF CLEARSIGHT
COULD DO ANYTHING
TO STOP IT, SHE DIDN'T
HAVE A MOMENT
TO LOSE.

plink

plink









I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU DO THAT!

WHY NOT? I'LL BE A GREAT KING. CAN'T YOU SEE THAT? OUR KINGDOM COULD STRETCH FROM SHORE TO SHORE.



YOU AND ME, SIDE BY SIDE, WE COULD BRING HARMONY TO THE WHOLE CONTINENT, WITH OUR DRAGONETS INHERITING THE THRONE AFTER WE'RE GONE.

AFTER WE'RE GONE? YOU WON'T EVER LET THAT HAPPEN. HAVE YOU ALREADY CAST AN IMMORTALITY SPELL?



HE DID. HE'S IMMORTAL NOW. THAT'S ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS I WAS SUPPOSED TO PREVENT.

IS THERE ANY HOPE LEFT?



THAT'S IT. THE
ONLY WAY TO STOP
DARKSTALKER FROM
KILLING THE QUEEN.

IT LEADS TO
MORE BLOODSHED, BUT
AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE A
MOMENT TO THINK IF WE
TAKE THIS PATH.



WHITEOUT.

YOUR FATHER HAS
HER. HE'S TAKEN
HER AND THEY'RE
FLYING...

NORTH. HE'S
TAKING HER TO THE
ICE KINGDOM.



FATHOM

FROM THE OUTSIDE, FATHOM HAD THOUGHT DARKSTALKER AND CLEARSIGHT'S RELATIONSHIP WAS PERFECT. THE WAY THEY'D SUDDENLY EXPLODED—THE IDEA THAT DARKSTALKER HAD CAST A SPELL ON CLEARSIGHT—THE FACT THAT HE'D BEEN ON HIS WAY TO KILL HIS OWN QUEEN! FATHOM WONDERED IF HE REALLY KNEW HIS FRIEND AT ALL.

WHAT
HAPPENED
HERE?

DARKSTALKER PUT UP
A BORDER SHIELD. IT KILLS
ANY ICEWINGS WHO TRY
TO ENTER THE KINGDOM.

I SHOULD HAVE
GUESSED HIS MAGIC DID
THIS. SO WHY AM I
FOLLOWING HIM INTO
A STRANGE KINGDOM
WITHOUT A GUARD?

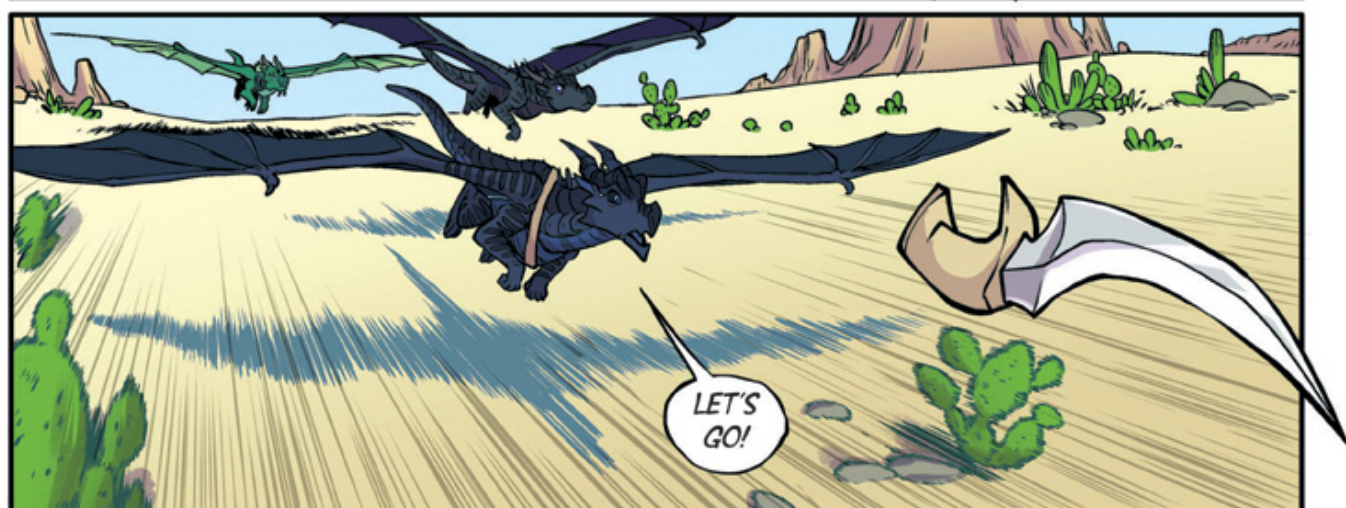


THAT'S THE SCROLL
WHERE HE KEEPS ALL
HIS POWER.

WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO WITH
THAT?

NOT WHAT
YOU THINK.









SHE'S GOING TO—
OW!—MARRY AN ICEWING
PRINCE. NOT SOME
LOWBORN NIGHTWING.
I'M DOING—RRGH!



THIS FOR YOUR MOTHER.
QUEEN DIAMOND WILL LET
FOESLAYER GO—IF SHE
HAS ME INSTEAD.



MOTHER
IS DEAD.



YOU'RE DOING THIS
FOR YOURSELF. YOU'RE
PLANNING TO TELL DIAMOND
OUR SECRETS. MAYBE EVEN
USE YOUR POWER
AGAINST US.



ONLY IF—AAAH!—ONLY IF I
HAVE TO, TO PROTECT
WHITEOUT.
YOU'LL BE FINE,
INVULNERABLE SCALES.
JUST LET US GO.



YOU SHOULD
HAVE KILLED ME.
I'M NOT SURE WHY
YOU DIDN'T.



I WASN'T GOING
TO KILL MY OWN
SON. MY SOUL'S
NOT THAT FAR
GONE.
I SHOULD,
THOUGH. OUR
SOULS ARE EQUALLY
DOOMED.



WHAT ARE
YOU WRITING, YOU
LITTLE MONSTER?

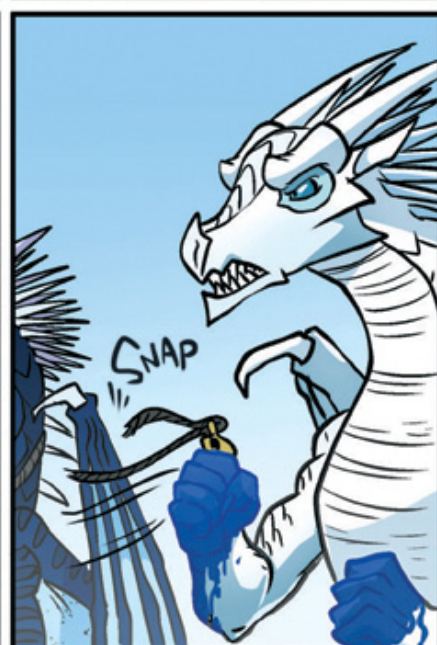


DARKSTALKER,
PLEASE, PLEASE
DON'T.



YOU—

FATHER, STOP
TALKING. NOW.





DARKSTALKER

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, DARKSTALKER THOUGHT HE WAS DOING AN ADMIRABLE JOB OF KEEPING HIS TEMPER. CLEARSIGHT WAS ACTING AS IF HIS GIFT OF THE EARRINGS WAS SOME ENORMOUS TREACHERY, INSTEAD OF A PERFECTLY SWEET, KINDHEARTED GESTURE. AND NOW FATHOM WAS FLOODING DARKSTALKER'S MIND WITH PANICKED SCREAMS OF DOOM DOOM THE SKY IS FALLING MY FRIEND IS EVIL THE WORLD IS ENDING BLAH BLAH OVERREACTING MELODRAMATIC NONSENSE.

I'M DOING WHAT I NEED TO DO. I'M THE GOOD GUY HERE!

IF CLEARSIGHT AND FATHOM CAN'T SEE THAT, WHAT KIND OF FRIENDS ARE THEY? ISN'T IT THEIR ONE JOB TO TRUST AND SUPPORT ME? AS MY BEST FRIENDS?

MY WORK'S NOT DONE. I NEED TO MAKE US SAFE PERMANENTLY. I NEED EVERYONE TO KNOW THAT YOU NEVER COME AFTER DARKSTALKER.

FOLLOW US BACK TO THE ICE KINGDOM. KEEP UP. DON'T TRY ANYTHING. DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT ANYTHING EXCEPT FLYING, ONE WINGBEAT AFTER ANOTHER.



DARKSTALKER, PLEASE STOP TO LOOK AT THE TIMELINES WITH ME. WE CAN FIND ONE THAT'S SAFE FOR ALL OF US.

I KNOW WE CAN. WE'RE ON IT. WHO'S SAFER THAN THE KING AND QUEEN?



I LOVE HEARING THEIR WINGBEATS WITH ME. THESE ARE MY DRAGONS, CLEARSIGHT AND FATHOM AND WHITEOUT. THEY MIGHT FUSS AND WORRY, BUT THEY'LL LOVE ME NO MATTER WHAT.



VIGILANCE. I MADE HER A STRONGER QUEEN. I GAVE HER THIS SHIELD. I STRENGTHENED HER TROOPS. AND THEN WHAT DID SHE DO? SEND AN ASSASSIN AFTER ME!!

SHE BROUGHT THIS UPON HERSELF.



I CAN SEE SOLDIERS' CAMPFIRES BELOW US... THAT WILL BE MY ARMY SOON. WE'LL CRUSH THE ICEWINGS EASILY ONCE I'M KING. I'LL PUNISH DIAMOND FOR WHAT SHE DID TO MY MOTHER.



DRAGONS AREN'T OBJECTS! YOU CAN'T ENCHANT THEM LIKE PUPPETS! IS HE EVIL? WHAT CAN WE DO?!?!?

FATHOM'S THOUGHTS ARE SO ANXIOUS AND ANNOYING. ONCE I'M KING, I'LL MAKE SOMETHING TO CALM HIM DOWN. I KNOW I CAN MAKE FATHOM A HAPPIER DRAGON. HONESTLY, I THOUGHT GETTING RID OF INDIGO WOULD DO IT, BUT APPARENTLY THAT WASN'T ENOUGH.



CLEARSIGHT LOOKS AS DOUBTFUL AS EVER...

DIDN'T THEY NOTICE HOW I SAVED WHITEOUT?

RRRHH. THEY'LL UNDERSTAND EVENTUALLY. THEY'LL SEE THAT I'M RIGHT.

I CAN SEE THE PALACE!



HE DESERVES
THIS FOR WHAT HE
TRIED TO DO TO
WHITEOUT.

STAND QUIETLY UNTIL I
TELL YOU WHAT TO DO.



MY
FRIENDS.

MY
SUBJECTS.

YOU'RE
ABOUT TO SEE
SOMETHING
NO DRAGON
HAS EVER SEEN
BEFORE.



COME WATCH!
THIS IS THE MOST
IMPORTANT DAY OF
YOUR LIVES!



I TOLD FATHOM
TO GO BACK TO THE
PALACE. HE'S SEEN
ENOUGH VIOLENCE IN
HIS LIFE FROM
DRAGONS HE
TRUSTS.

EYEROLL

I THINK HE'LL SURVIVE.
YOU KNOW HE DOES. IN
A FEW YEARS, I'LL FIND
HIM A NICE NIGHTWING
WIFE.



I WON'T
LIKE HER.

HOW CAN WE
BE LOOKING AT THE
SAME FUTURES
AND SEE THEM SO
DIFFERENTLY?



BECAUSE
YOU'RE STILL
FOCUSING ON
THE BAD ONES.

I SEE THE ONES
WHERE WE SPREAD
PEACE AND RULE
ALL THE TRIBES
AND THE FUTURE IS
WONDERFUL.



WHAT KIND OF
WONDERFUL FUTURE
STARTS WITH BLOODSHED
AND QUEEN-KILLING?
CAN'T WE—

ENOUGH. STOP
DOUBTING ME.



I'LL FIX THINGS WITH HER LATER. I KNOW WE'LL BE HAPPY AGAIN ONE DAY, NOT LONG FROM NOW. EVEN IF IT REQUIRES A LITTLE MAGIC.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT! A PERFECT NIGHT TO PUNISH A TRAITOR!



WHAT?

A TRAITOR?

A TRAITOR!

THAT SLIPPERY ICEWING!

WHY ISN'T HE FLYING AWAY?



ARCTIC, TELL EVERYONE WHAT YOU WERE ABOUT TO DO BEFORE I STOPPED YOU.

I WAS GOING HOME. I'M NOT A TRAITOR!



TELL THE TRUTH. TELL THEM EXACTLY WHAT YOU WERE PLANNING.

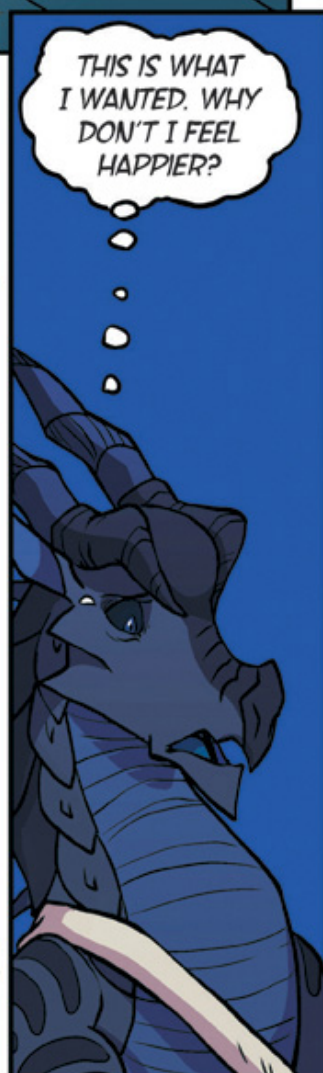
I WAS TAKING MY DAUGHTER TO QUEEN DIAMOND. I WAS GOING TO OFFER HER TALONS IN MARRIAGE TO WHOMEVER DIAMOND CHOSE SO SHE COULD HATCH HEIRS WITH ANIMUS BLOOD.

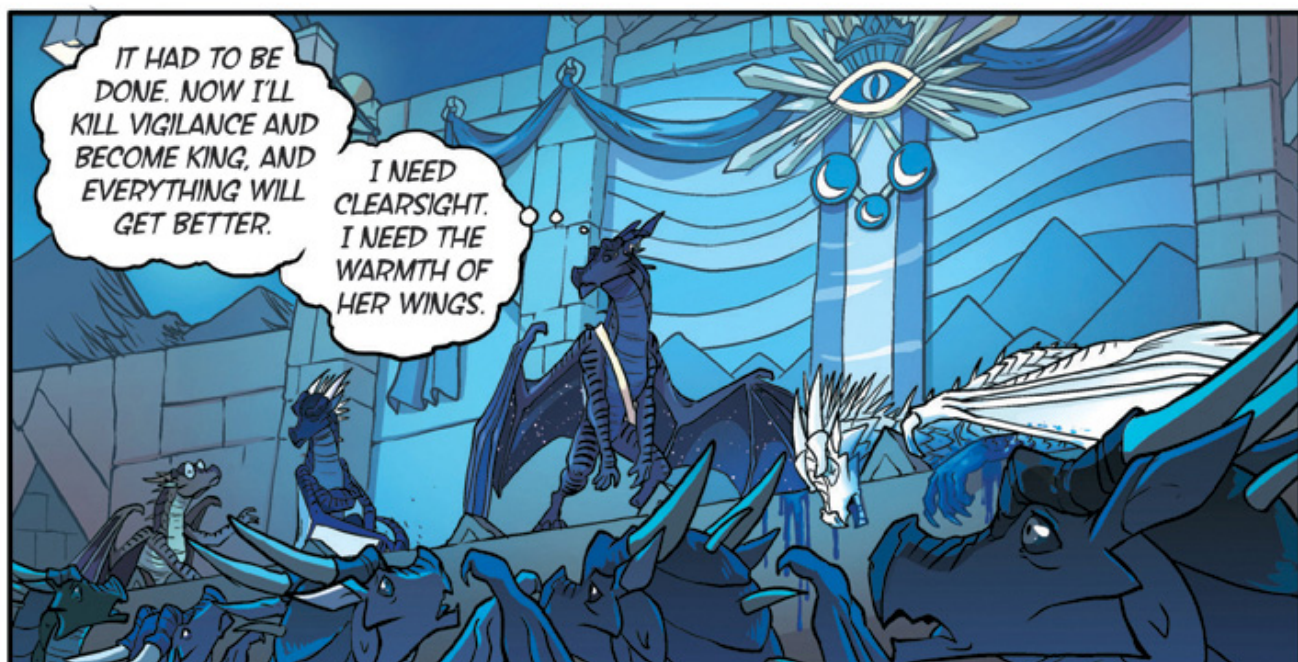


I WAS GOING TO OFFER THE ICEWINGS A DETAILED MAP OF THE NIGHT KINGDOM IN EXCHANGE FOR FOESLAYER'S LIFE. WITH A WAY TO GET INSIDE AND DESTROY YOU ALL.









IT HAD TO BE
DONE. NOW I'LL
KILL VIGILANCE AND
BECOME KING, AND
EVERYTHING WILL
GET BETTER.

I NEED
CLEARSIGHT.
I NEED THE
WARMTH OF
HER WINGS.



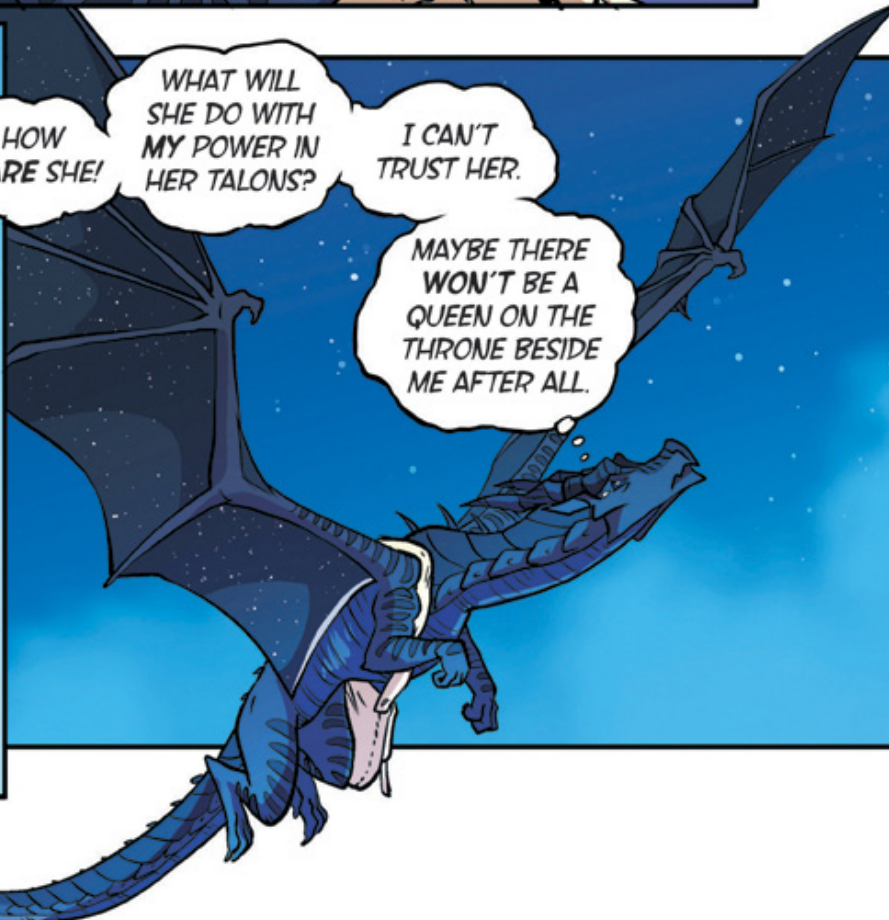
WAIT—
WHERE
IS CLEAR-
SIGHT?



NO. SHE
CAN'T HAVE.



CLEAR-SIGHT HAS
YOUR SCROLL. SHE SAID
SHE'LL MEET YOU AT
AGATE MOUNTAIN.



HOW
DARE SHE!

WHAT WILL
SHE DO WITH
MY POWER IN
HER TALONS?

I CAN'T
TRUST HER.

MAYBE THERE
WON'T BE A
QUEEN ON THE
THRONE BESIDE
ME AFTER ALL.

CLEAR SIGHT

CLEAR SIGHT'S HEART THUDDING WITH TERROR AS SHE CREPT OFF THE STAGE INTO THE CROWD. SHE COULDN'T SAVE ARCTIC. THE NEXT FEW MINUTES WERE INEVITABLE. NOW SHE HAD TO SAVE EVERYONE ELSE—IF SHE COULD. THERE WAS ONE SLIM CHANCE. THE ONLY REASON IT MIGHT WORK WAS BECAUSE SHE COULD READ THE RIPPLES OF POSSIBILITY BETTER THAN DARKSTALKER COULD. SHE HAD TO TRY.

CLEAR SIGHT!

WHAT

IS

HAPPENING?

I WAS GOING TO OFFER THE ICEWINGS A DETAILED MAP OF THE NIGHT KINGDOM...

LISTENER, REMEMBER WHEN YOU TOLD ME YOU WANTED TO KNOW THE FUTURE IF SOMETHING REALLY, REALLY BAD IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN?

FIND MY PARENTS; GATHER YOUR FAMILY. TELL EVERYONE YOU CAN.

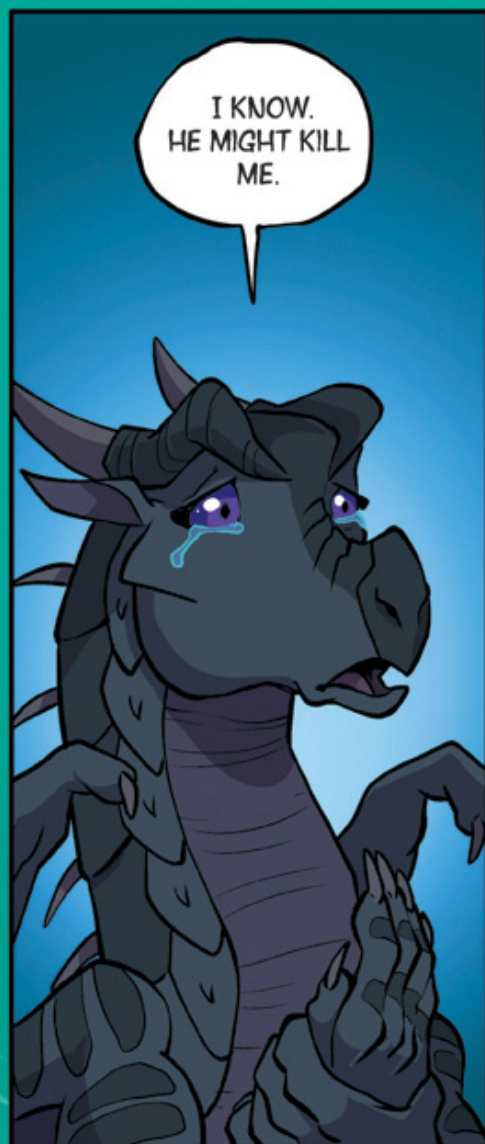
LEAVE THE NIGHT KINGDOM. FLY AS FAR AND AS FAST AS YOU CAN.

THAT'S THE SEER!

I'LL GIVE YOU AS MUCH TIME AS I CAN, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF MY PLAN WILL WORK.

THANK YOU FOR BEING YOU. I HOPE YOUR LIFE IS EVERYTHING IT SHOULD BE.







FATHOM

FATHOM WAS STILL SHAKEN FROM WHAT HE'D DONE—BETRAYING HIS FRIEND. BREAKING HIS OATH. USING HIS MAGIC. BUT ALL HE COULD REALLY THINK WAS INDIGO. WHAT HAD DARKSTALKER DONE?

IF DARKSTALKER DID SOMETHING TO INDIGO, THEN—

SHE DIDN'T LEAVE ME.

DARKSTALKER COULD HAVE ENCHANTED ANYTHING—BUT SHE'D NEVER HAVE ACCEPTED A GIFT FROM HIM.

SO MANY SPELLS! HE DID SO MUCH, QUIETLY, WITHOUT ME EVEN NOTICING. A BLANKET TO HELP FOESLAYER SLEEP WHEN SHE WAS IN THE FIELD. A SET OF PAINTS FOR WHITEOUT THAT NEVER WENT DRY OR RAN OUT.

A BELL THAT RANG WHENEVER I WAS SAD OR LONELY. THAT'S HOW HE ALWAYS KNEW WHEN TO SHOW UP. HE DID CARE.

ARE WE MAKING A MISTAKE? DOES HIS GOOD SIDE OUTWEIGH HIS EVIL?

BUT THEN THERE ARE THESE OTHER SPELLS... THE SHIELD THAT KILLS ICEWINGS. A WEAPON THAT SHOOTS FIRE TEN TIMES AS FAR AS ANY DRAGON CAN BREATHE.

AND THE LAST ONE: ENCHANT ARCTIC TO OBEY MY EVERY COMMAND.



AND WHATEVER
HE DID TO INDIGO...

I'VE READ THE
ENTIRE SCROLL—
THERE'S NOTHING IN
HERE ABOUT HER!

MY EYES
ARE STARTING
TO HURT.



UGH, I NEED
MORE LIGHT.



ENCHANT THIS PAINT SET SO PAINTS
NEVER DRY AND NEVER RUN OUT.

ENCHANT THESE EARRINGS TO KEEP THEIR WEARER
FOCUSED ON ONLY THE BRIGHTEST, HAPPIEST FUTURES.

ENCHANT THIS PLATE TO KEEP FOOD
WARM AND FRESH WHEN FOESLAYER IS LATE.

ENCHANT THIS SCROLL TO SILENTLY LET DARKSTALKER
KNOW THE INSTANT ANYONE ELSE USES IT.

WHAT...



HE'S BEEN
WRITING SPELLS IN
INVISIBLE INK. TO
KEEP THEM HIDDEN
FROM CLEARSIGHT.

OH,
DARKSTALKER.

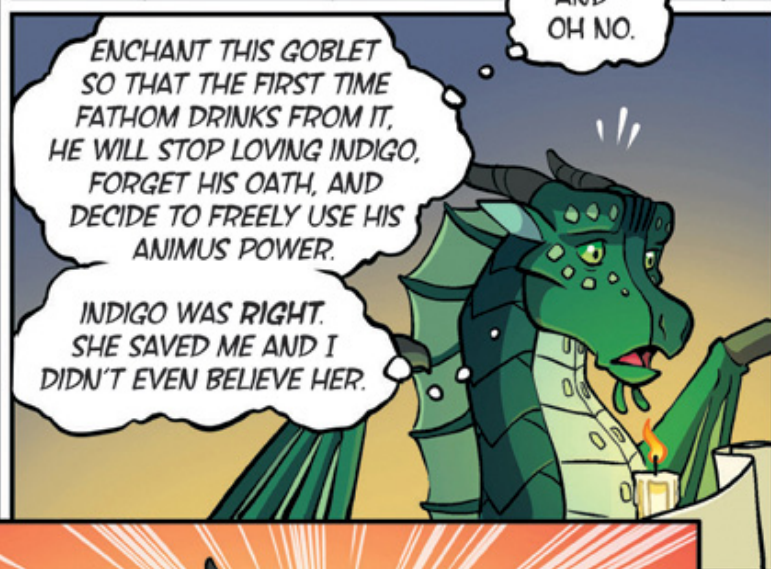


I WAS RIGHT.
HERE'S A SPELL TO
ALERT DARKSTALKER
WHenever SOMEONE ELSE
USES THE SCROLL.



AND THIS ONE SENDS A
DAGGER TO KILL ONE ICEWING
EVERY FULL MOON FOR A YEAR,
THEN LEAVE THE MESSAGE:
"DARKSTALKER IS COMING."

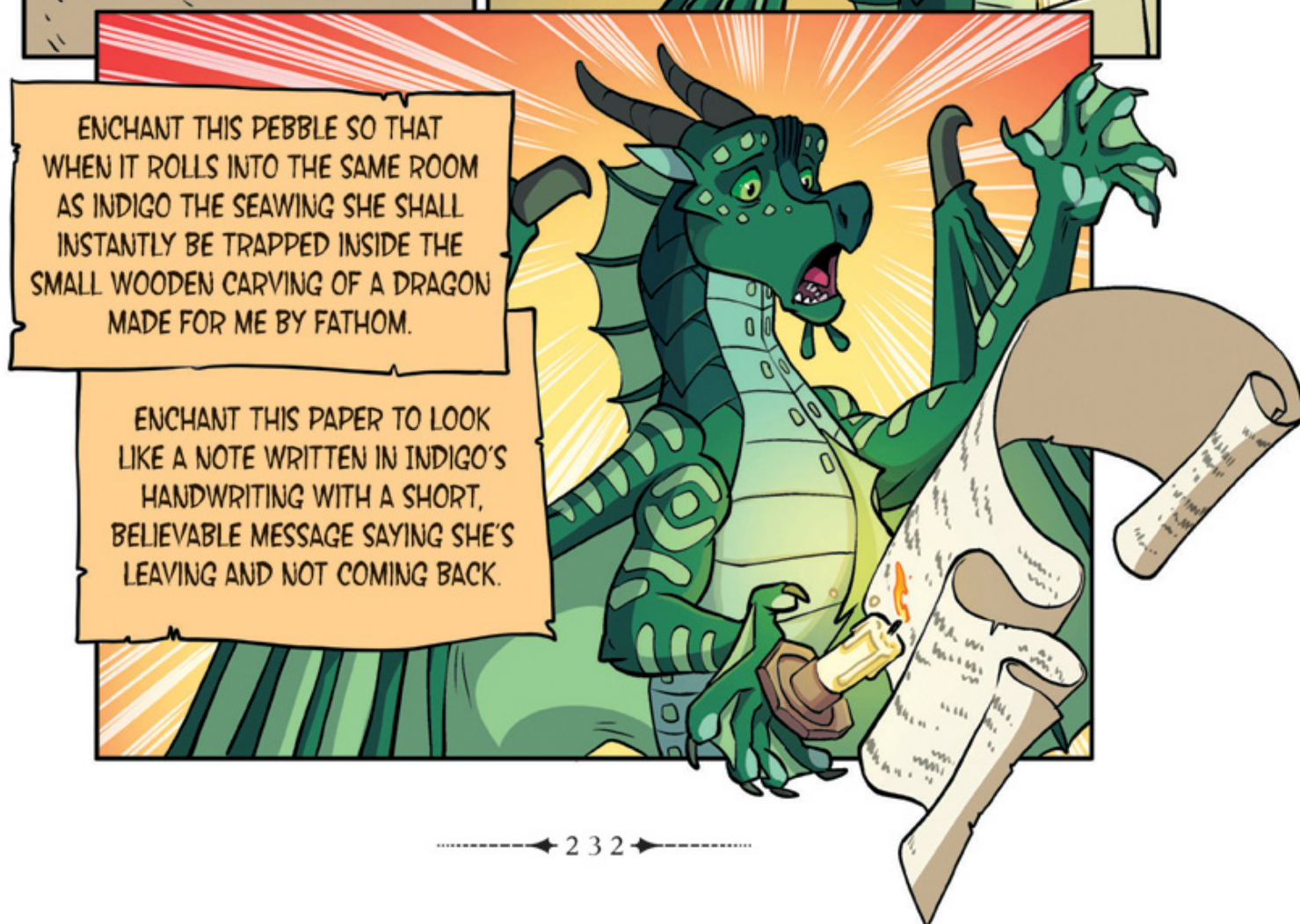
THE ICEWINGS
MUST BE TERRIFIED.
I WONDER HOW MANY
IT'S KILLED SO FAR.



AND—
OH NO.

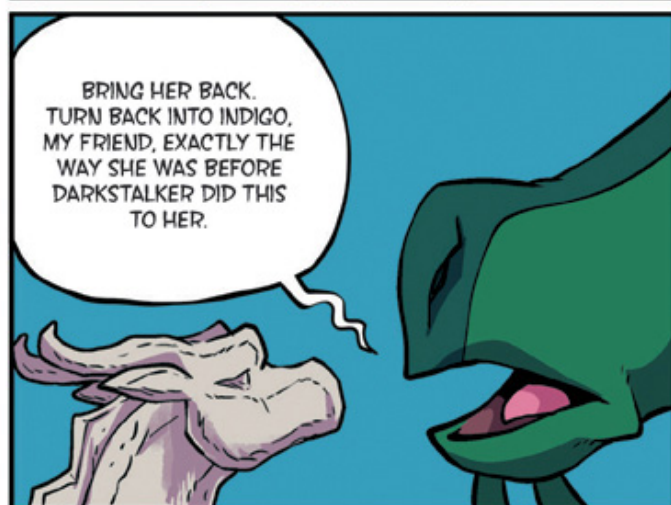
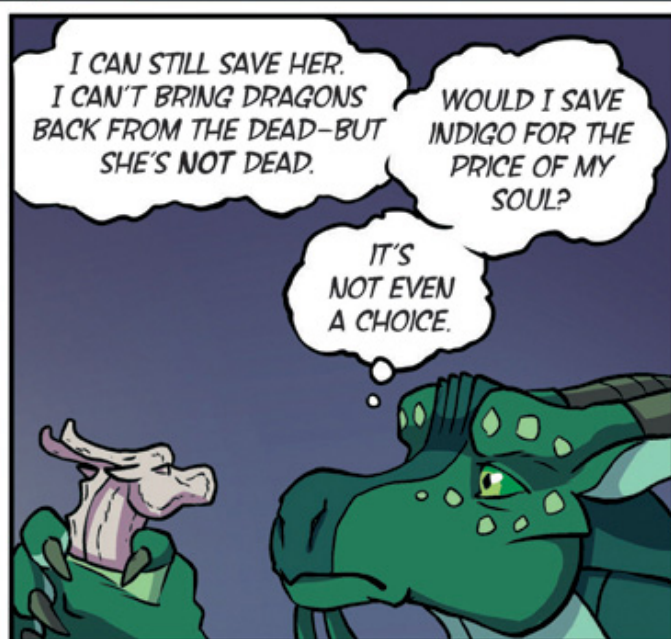
ENCHANT THIS GOBLET
SO THAT THE FIRST TIME
FATHOM DRINKS FROM IT,
HE WILL STOP LOVING INDIGO,
FORGET HIS OATH, AND
DECIDE TO FREELY USE HIS
ANIMUS POWER.

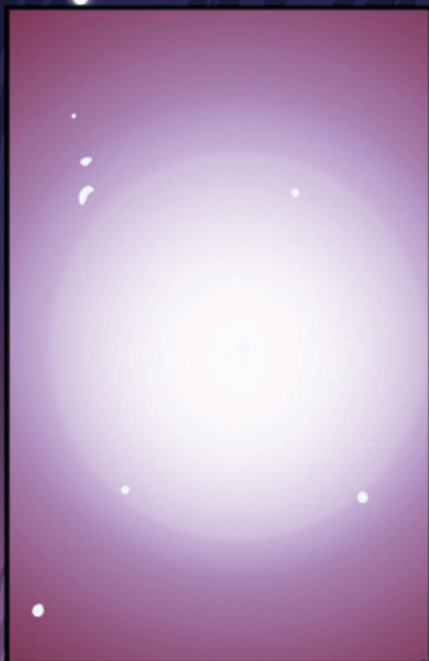
INDIGO WAS RIGHT.
SHE SAVED ME AND I
DIDN'T EVEN BELIEVE HER.



ENCHANT THIS PEBBLE SO THAT
WHEN IT ROLLS INTO THE SAME ROOM
AS INDIGO THE SEAWING SHE SHALL
INSTANTLY BE TRAPPED INSIDE THE
SMALL WOODEN CARVING OF A DRAGON
MADE FOR ME BY FATHOM.

ENCHANT THIS PAPER TO LOOK
LIKE A NOTE WRITTEN IN INDIGO'S
HANDWRITING WITH A SHORT,
BELIEVABLE MESSAGE SAYING SHE'S
LEAVING AND NOT COMING BACK.





YOWCH. DID I
FALL ASLEEP?







THAT THING DOESN'T KNOW YOUR SOUL, FATHOM. I KNOW YOUR SOUL. TELL ME WHAT YOU DID.

I USED MY MAGIC. TWO SPELLS. MY SOUL COULD BE ALMOST GONE!

USING MAGIC DOESN'T MAKE YOU EVIL, FATHOM! DOING EVIL THINGS MAKES YOU EVIL!



HAVE YOU DONE ANYTHING EVIL LATELY?

WELL... I BETRAYED MY FRIEND.

THE SUPERVILLAIN?



HE'S NOT—WELL, ALL RIGHT.

LET ME GUESS. YOU DID SOMETHING TO STOP HIM FROM KILLING LOOOOOOOTS OF INNOCENT DRAGONS.

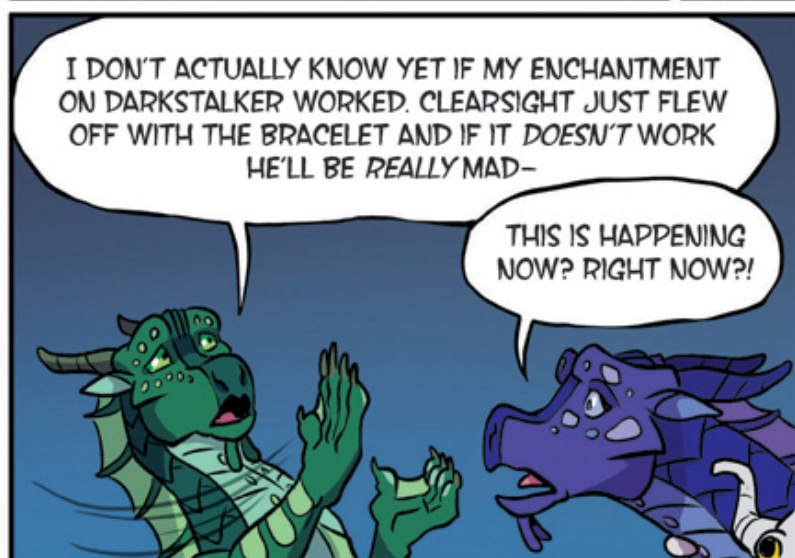


UM... YES. HOW DID YOU KNOW?

BECAUSE I'VE MET HIM.

SORRY, DOESN'T COUNT. NOT EVIL.





DARKSTALKER

HE FOUND CLEARSIGHT NEAR THE PEAK OF AGATE MOUNTAIN, THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN IN PYRRHIA. SHE WAS SITTING IN THE MOUTH OF A SMALL CAVE, LOOKING EAST TO WHERE THE SUN WAS RISING OVER THE TWIN PEAKS OF JADE MOUNTAIN. SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE CARRYING ANYTHING. WHERE WAS HIS SCROLL? AND IF SHE WASN'T GOING TO USE IT, WHY STEAL IT?

DID YOU KNOW THAT THIS WON'T BE THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN MUCH LONGER? THERE'S GOING TO BE AN EARTHQUAKE. THEN JADE MOUNTAIN WILL BE TALLEST.

ONE SMALL PIECE OF THE FUTURE THAT'S DEFINITELY TRUE.

I COULD ENCHANT THE MOUNTAIN TO STAY UP IF I WANTED TO. WE CAN MAKE THE FUTURE ANYTHING WE LIKE.

I THOUGHT I WAS SO CAREFUL AND WE STILL ENDED UP HERE. ALL THAT STUDYING, ALL THE TIMELINE SCROLLS.

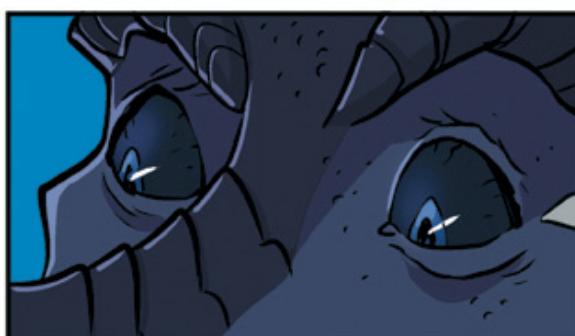
NOTHING WORKED, AND I STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE IT ALL WENT SO WRONG.

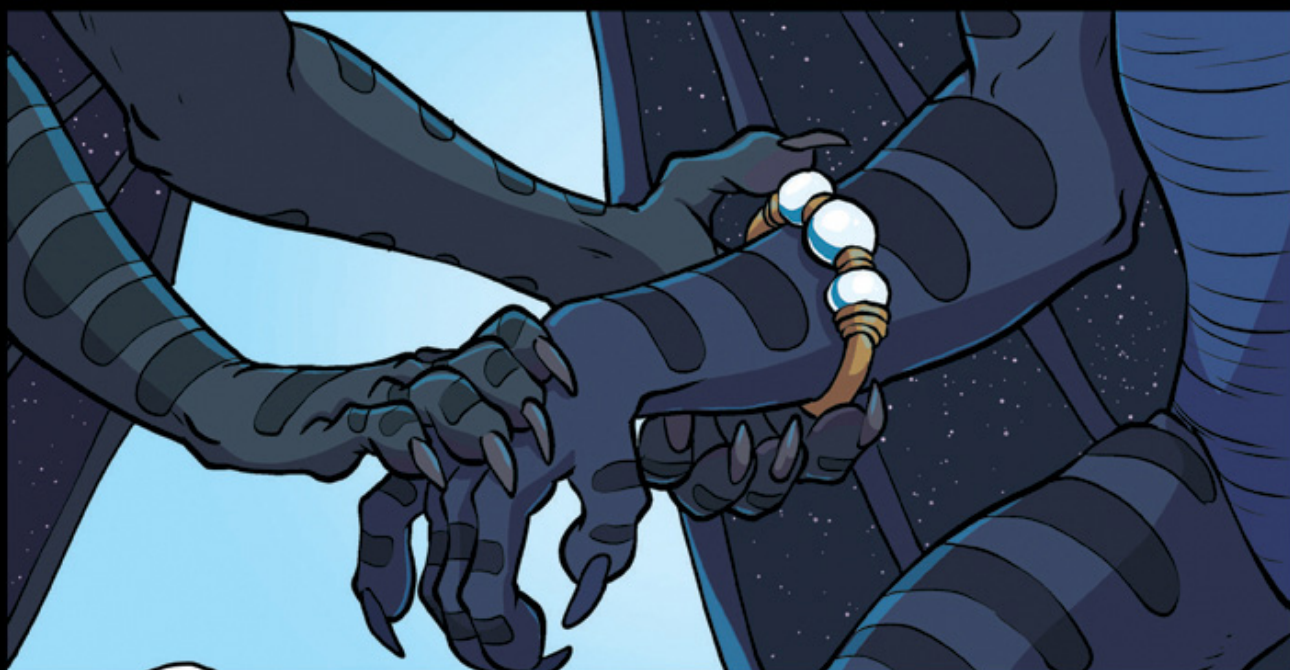
BECAUSE IT *DIDN'T*. WE'RE ON THE RIGHT PATH, CLEARSIGHT. WE'RE SO CLOSE. ALMOST ALL MY ENEMIES ARE DEAD.

INCLUDING INDIGO?

DOES SHE KNOW? NO... SHE'S JUST GUESSING.

INDIGO LEFT. THAT WAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.





IT'S BEEN YEARS
SINCE I COULD
READ HER MIND...

SHE LOVES ME SO MUCH.
AND SHE'S SO AFRAID OF ME.

SHE'S BETRAYING
ME TO SAVE
EVERYONE ELSE.



GOOD-BYE, MY
DEAREST LOVE.



CLEAR SIGHT

HE'S STILL ALIVE,
BUT HE WON'T
WAKE UP AS LONG
AS THE BRACELET
STAYS ON HIM.

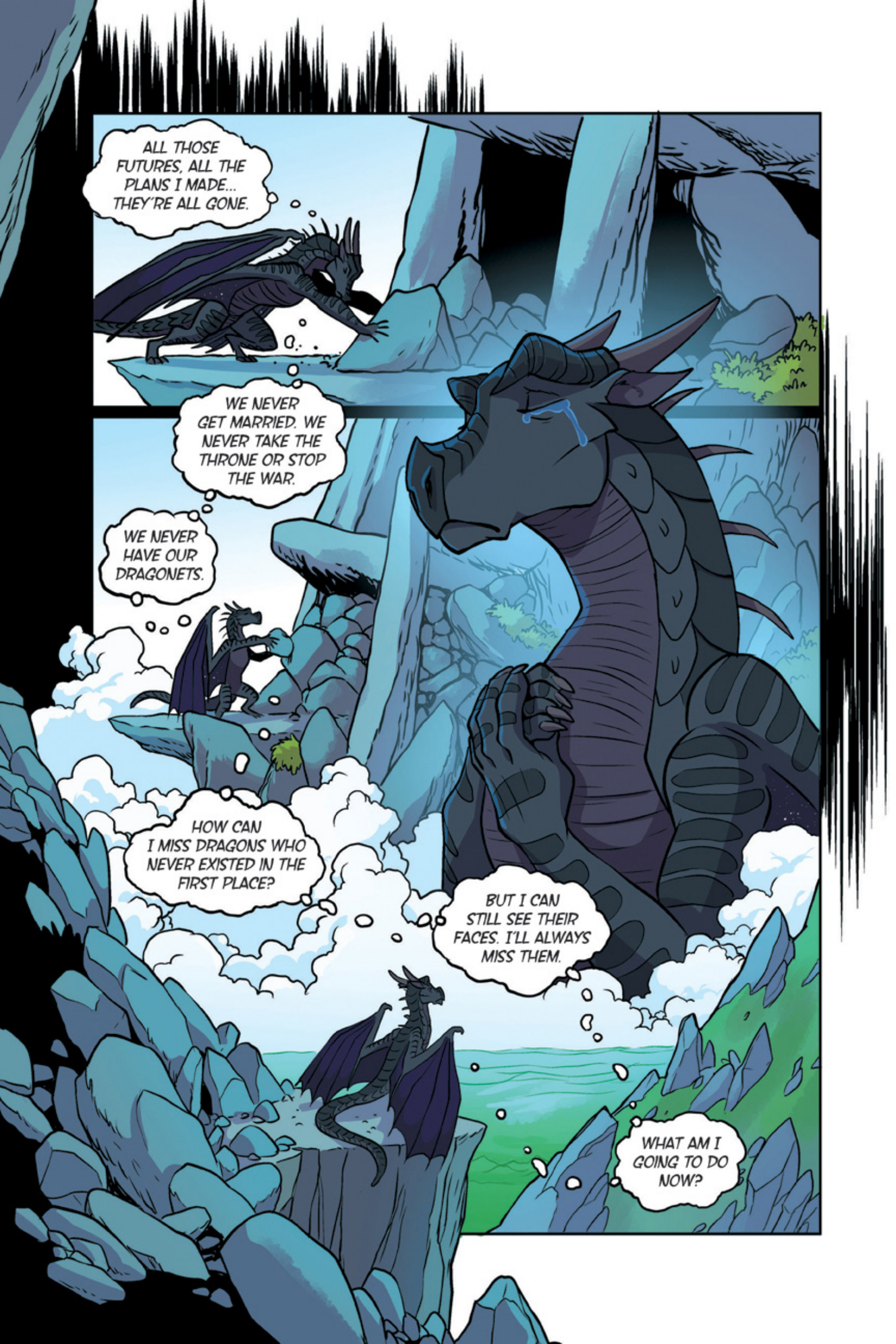
I'LL NEVER FORGET
THE LOOK ON HIS FACE
WHEN HE REALIZED I
BETRAYED HIM.

HE MADE
HIMSELF IMMORTAL,
BUT FATHOM'S SIMPLE
SLEEPING SPELL TOOK
HIM DOWN.

WHEN THE EARTHQUAKE
COLLAPSES THE
MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE
SAFE TO LEAVE HIM.

HE CAN'T EVER BE
FOUND, NEVER SET FREE,
OR PYRRHIA WILL BE IN
DANGER AGAIN.





ALL THOSE
FUTURES, ALL THE
PLANS I MADE...
THEY'RE ALL GONE.

WE NEVER
GET MARRIED. WE
NEVER TAKE THE
THRONE OR STOP
THE WAR.

WE NEVER
HAVE OUR
DRAGONETS.

HOW CAN
I MISS DRAGONS WHO
NEVER EXISTED IN THE
FIRST PLACE?

BUT I CAN
STILL SEE THEIR
FACES. I'LL ALWAYS
MISS THEM.

WHAT AM I
GOING TO DO
NOW?



THERE'S NOTHING
FOR ME BACK IN
THE TRIBE.

THE NIGHTWINGS
WILL NEVER TRUST ME
AGAIN, EVEN IF I TELL THEM
WHAT I DID—

AND I
CAN'T EVER TELL
ANYONE.

NO ONE CAN EVER
KNOW WHERE HE IS OR
HOW EASY IT WOULD
BE TO WAKE HIM.

THERE ARE
DANGEROUS PATHS
IF I REJOIN THE
TRIBE, TOO.

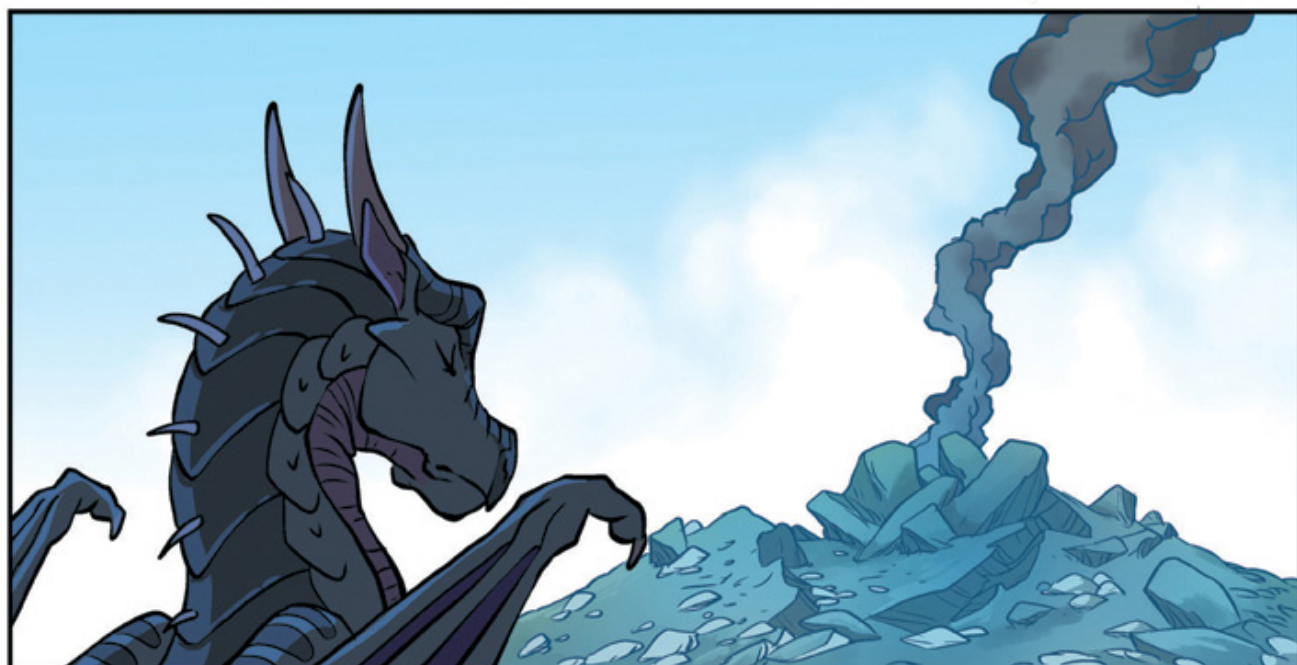
ONES WHERE I FEEL
SO ALONE, MISS HIM
SO MUCH, THAT THE
TEMPTATION TO
RETURN AND RELEASE
HIM BECOMES TOO
GREAT.

I COULD STAY
WITH HIM. I COULD LIE
IN THE PATH OF THE
AVALANCHE AND
WAIT TO DIE.

I ALREADY
MISS HIM
SO MUCH.

BUT I CAN SEE—
THERE ARE FUTURES
WHERE I'LL BE HAPPY
AGAIN.

THERE ARE EVEN
FUTURES WITH
ANOTHER LOVE AND
OTHER DRAGONETS.





THERE WAS A TIME,
SO LONG AGO, WHEN
I WONDERED WHAT
MY LIFE WOULD BE
LIKE IF I NEVER MET
DARKSTALKER. IF I
FLEW AWAY TO
EXPLORE THE WORLD.
IF I WERE THE
ONLY ONE WHO
COULD CONTROL
MY DESTINY.

I COULD
DO IT.



I COULD GO FIND
THE LOST CONTINENT
AND THE SECRET TRIBES
THAT LIVE THERE.

STRANGE DRAGONS
AND ODD ANIMALS LIKE
NOTHING I'VE EVER SEEN
BEFORE.

I KNOW WHERE
TO GO. I KNOW HOW
TO GET THERE.

MY FUTURE IS
IN MY TALONS
NOW.

I'M ALONE...
BUT I'M FREE.



EPILOGUE

INDIGO
FORMER HONOR GUARD
OF QUEEN PEARL



FIVE YEARS LATER, ON THEIR ISOLATED ISLAND, INDIGO FOUND HERSELF REMEMBERING THAT LONG-AGO DAY OF THE ANIMUS TEST. SHE'D BEEN SO RELIEVED TO FIND SHE WAS NORMAL, THAT SHE DIDN'T HAVE SOME SORT OF SPOOKY MAGIC IN HER CLAWS. IT WAS NOTHING, THOUGH, COMPARED TO THE RELIEF SHE FELT ONCE THEY WERE SURE THAT NONE OF THEIR DRAGONETS HAD IT.







WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT BAD GUYS?

HOW DO THEY GET THAT WAY?

WELL, THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS. SOMETIMES IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE SAD OR ANGRY.



SOME DRAGONS BECOME BAD WHEN THEY HAVE TOO MUCH POWER.

AND SOME DON'T.



SOMETIMES... SOMETIMES THEY DON'T KNOW THEY'RE BAD GUYS. THEY THINK WHAT THEY'RE DOING IS RIGHT.

SO WHO DECIDES IF IT IS RIGHT OR NOT?

ME!



HOW WOULD I KNOW IF I WAS A BAD GUY?

I WOULD TELL YOU, AND THEN YOU'D BE GOOD AGAIN.

I WOULD WHACK YOU AND SMUSH YOU!

YOU DO THAT WHEN I AM GOOD!



THERE'S REALLY NO SUCH THING AS BAD GUYS. MAYBE JUST DRAGONS WHO DO BAD THINGS.

NO, SOME DRAGONS ARE DEFINITELY BAD AND HAVE TO BE STOPPED.

I DON'T THINK ANY DRAGONS ARE ALL BAD.



THEN YOU HAVE A SELECTIVE MEMORY, MY LOVE.

WE KNEW A BAD GUY ONCE.

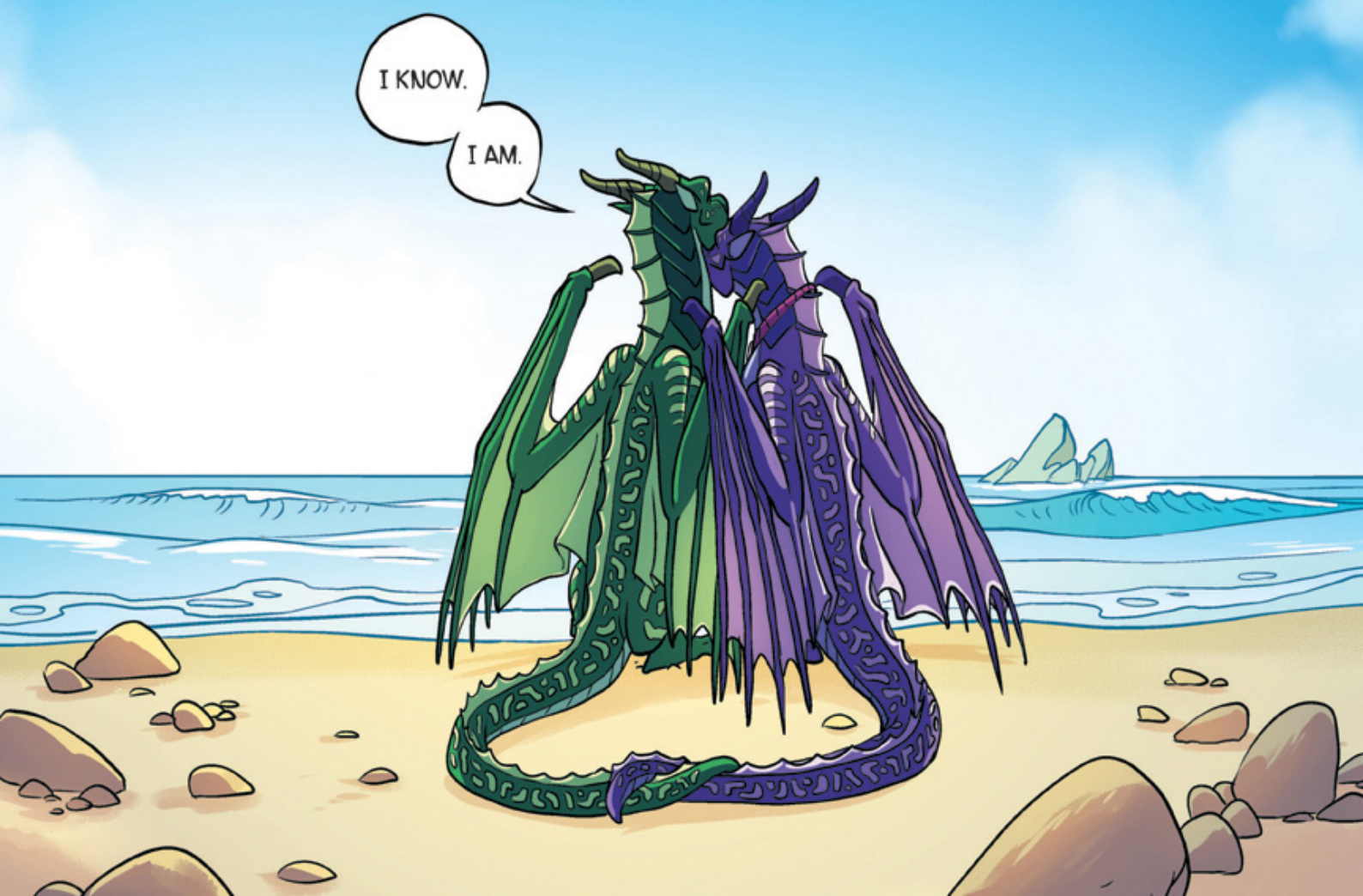
GASP! GASP! GASP!



A DRAGON WHO DID BAD THINGS. BUT ALSO SOME GOOD THINGS. HE CARED A LOT ABOUT HIS FRIENDS.

HMM.

MOSTLY BAD THINGS, THOUGH.





TWO THOUSAND YEARS LATER...

A COMET PASSED BY,
CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHINE
LIKE A FOURTH MOON IN
PYRRHIA'S SKY.



CLOSE ENOUGH TO CHANGE
THE TIDES AND SHAKE THE
CONTINENTS. RUMBLING
EARTHQUAKES SHIFTED
ROCKS THAT HAD BEEN IN
PLACE FOR THOUSANDS
OF YEARS.



DEEP
UNDERGROUND,
IN THE DARKNESS,
COPPER WIRES
SNAPPED.

SNAP



AND A
DRAGON
AWOKE...



TEN TRIBES.
TWO CONTINENTS.
THREE MOONS.

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
TUI T. SUTHERLAND



WINGS OF FIRE
A GUIDE TO THE DRAGON WORLD

LIMITLESS STORIES — TOLD BY
THE DRAGONS THEMSELVES.

AVAILABLE NOW!

DISCOVER THE WORLD OF WINGS OF FIRE

NOVELS



GRAPHIC NOVELS



